

**TOWN OF ROCKY HILL
TOWN COUNCIL
BUDGET WORKSHOP OF MAY 12, 2014**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mayor Henry Vassel called the May 12, 2014 Budget Workshop to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Council Chambers of the Rocky Hill Town Hall, 761 Old Main Street, Rocky Hill, CT.

Those in attendance: Deputy Mayor Nadine Bell, Councilor Meg Casasanta, Councilor Guy Drapeau, Councilor Joe Kochanek, Councilor Bill MacDonald, Councilor Frank Szeps and Councilor Cathy Vargas. Also present were Town Manager Barbara Gilbert and Finance Director John Mehr.

Those absent: Councilor Tim Moriarty.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

III. MOMENT OF SILENCE

Mayor Vassel asked for a Moment of Silence.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT

Mayor Vassel asked if anyone from the public had any comments. Melodie Perretto, 148 Raymond Road, R.H., said she wanted to go a little bit further with regards to the subject of the catering of the lunches versus the Chef that they had been talking about (for the seniors). She told them that they wanted to do this because of the price. She referred to the cost it would be to have someone bringing the food in and she said this would be a misuse of resources. Jobs won't be provided for this community and this would not be in the best interest of the customer. The food would be cooked thirty to sixty minutes prior to the moving of it to the site. She said this would be a risky business. She questioned how the community would be covered if there was a storm. She referred back to the October storm two years ago. Some sections of the Country won't be producing food. She asked them if they have done any survey with regards to the impact of this choice. She asked what percentage their area (seniors) would be getting if the budget is going up and she asked if this would be more than 1%. She told them that this is "food for thought". She thanked the Town Council. Mayor Vassel said thank you.

Mayor Vassel asked if anyone else from the public wished to speak. Christa Mariner, 58 Farms Village Road, R.H., said that the back of Council Chambers now was full of seniors and she said that they are a "gigantic voting block" in Rocky Hill. She told everyone that she was appearing before them this evening to ask them respectfully not to outsource the senior meal program. This

provides approximately 4,600 lunches per year. These lunches offer an opportunity for them to have home-style cooking and daily socialization. These things are the hallmark of a compassionate community. The lunch cook for the seniors is employed already as a custodian at the Community Center. She told everyone that she didn't need to remind them that the seniors are their parents, grandparents, and she said it will hopefully be all of them someday if they get the gift of years. Seniors make up a huge portion of the residential tax base. Rocky Hill has many affluent seniors and this includes the ones who live in upscale and active adult communities. The Ridge At Elm includes fifty-eight houses that have over one hundred residents who pay cumulative property taxes currently in excess of \$400,000 per year while they receive minimal Town services in return. She respectfully asked the Town Council to keep the senior lunches as they currently are. She implored them to vote against any motion that might be made this evening to eliminate the cook's job and/or to modify the senior lunch program. She thanked them. Mayor Vasel said thank you.

Mayor Vasel asked if anyone else from the public wished to speak. Toni Palazzolo, 73 George Road, R.H., said she was present this evening to implore them to keep the meals (for the seniors) as they are. The seniors have lived in this Town and they have paid taxes. The seniors have contributed for a long period of time. She said this is the seniors' time to be treated with dignity and not as a commodity. She said the thing that she thinks they need to look at is that this is an interactive and social situation for them during the day. This may be the only socialization that they have during the day in many cases. She explained that this is kind of like "Facebooking" except that the seniors are visiting their people. She told everyone that they need to be aware that the seniors need to be treated with respect, as well as with dignity, and not as a line item. She told the Town Council that she knows the object of all of this is that they are trying to "crunch numbers" but she told that they need to build a community. Elm Ridge Park is successful and it works because people make connections to build a community there. She said the same thing is true with the senior meals and that is their community. She thanked them very much. Mayor Vasel said thank you.

Mayor Vasel asked if anyone else wished to speak from the public. Neil McPhee, 29 Carillon Drive, R.H., told them that he would give them a two minute story. He mentioned that today was Monday and he was at a 10:00 a.m. meeting at the Community Center. He then served lunch and ate lunch. He called Bingo after that. He said he was going to go to the Cora J. Belden Library in a couple of minutes for a movie. He told them to cut that, if anything, rather than the senior lunches. He said that he was speaking in support of the senior lunches. On Tuesday, he said that he would be organizing Setback with help and he will then have his lunch to go. He would then be playing Setback for two hours, clean up after that and then go home. He then explained what he would be doing this Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. He mentioned how Rocky Hill's senior lunch program is unique and if anything, he would have it improved. He told the Town Council to come and visit the seniors and "break bread" with them. He thanked the Town Council for their time. Mayor Vasel said thank you.

Mayor Vasel asked if anyone else from the public wished to speak. Dave Seigny, 85 Rosewood Drive, R.H., said that he is a resident and he is the President of Rocky Hill Little League. He has been involved for close to twenty years with the Rocky Hill Little League. He told the Town Council that he appreciates all of their commitment and dedication to making Rocky Hill better.

He thinks the Rocky Hill Little League Board also brings that to the Town. They have made many changes and improvements to Elm Ridge Park that he believes have been a benefit. The improvements have been completed with the Rocky Hill Little League and its participants in mind but it always also had the best interests of the Town in mind. These accomplishments and improvements were from hard work from the Rocky Hill Little League Board members and volunteers, as well as the never ending support from the Parks and Recreation Department, other residents, local businesses and the Town Council. He mentioned that Mayor Vassel, Councilor MacDonald, Councilor Moriarty and Town Manager Gilbert had a direct hand in helping as well. Dave Sevigny thanked all of them, as well as Walt Sykes (Crew Leader – Parks and Recreation Department) because he has helped out with many projects there. Dave Sevigny said the concession stand was their largest project and it has been completed now. They will have additional equipment needs in the future. Those will be provided as the projects come along and as the budgets dictate. The concession stand was designed with functionality and aesthetics in mind. Many resources were leveraged, major Capital was depleted and they received support from the Town. He said that they also probably had burned out a few people along the way. This conforms to Elm Ridge Park aesthetically and to the other structures that they have erected. Bathrooms were a must for it in order to maximize its functionality. He has directed many volunteers over the years and he has clearly defined their roles with some accountability but he finds it a little unfair, as well as likely unsanitary and unsafe to assign volunteer responsibility to take care of the bathrooms. It is necessary to have that job done thoroughly, faithfully and professionally. He said that this isn't a line item budget but he told the Town Council that he was requesting from them that they put this into their budget with consideration. This concession stand is open probably three months per year (May, June and July) and some of their preliminary estimates are that this would cost approximately \$150 per week or approximately \$1,800 for the season. He explained that the Rocky Hill Little League has dedicated \$130,000 of its own funds to build the concession stand. A lot of this was to have Rocky Hill and Elm Ridge Park looking great. They have also leveraged in excess of \$60,000 in work, labor and material in kind. He believes that they had great results and that this was a great undertaking. They need to take the second step now of having this maintained. He said he had discussions with Lisa Zerio (Director of Parks and Recreation & Custodial Staff) and they talked about the removal of one Port-O-Let. It will be difficult to remove more than that because the bathrooms are probably only going to be open during Rocky Hill Little League events. If they remove one Port-O-Let, that will probably save approximately \$90 per month so that will be a little over \$1,000 for the year. He told the Town Council that they would save that in going forward with consideration of what he had just talked about. He thanked the Town Council for their support in keeping this in consideration. Mayor Vassel said thank you.

Mayor Vassel asked if there was anyone else from the public who wished to speak. There was no one.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Award of Bid – Modular Classrooms – West Hill School

Mayor Vassel said he understood that Deputy Mayor Bell had a few motions to make. Deputy Mayor Bell said yes and she thanked Mayor Vassel.

Deputy Mayor Bell moved the following resolution reading it aloud and in full. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

“Award of Bid – West Hill School Modular Classrooms Project”

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Rocky Hill Town Council awards the bid for three (3) modular classrooms at West Hill School to Modular Space Corporation (ModSpace), 85 Kenneth Dooley Drive, Middletown, Connecticut at a bid price of \$496,703. This bid price includes the installation of the modular classrooms, 48 month leasing arrangement, and the cost to remove the modular classrooms at the end of the lease period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this modular classroom project award of bid is not effective unless the Rocky Hill Town Council appropriates funds in the Town’s 2014 -2015 Adopted Budget in the Capital Improvement Budget – budget line 01-950-000-5720 for School Improvements for the installation of these modular classrooms in the 2014 – 2015 budget year. Also, the Town Council appropriates funds in the Town’s 2014 -2015 Adopted Budget in the Capital Improvement Budget – budget line 01-950-000-5798 for Portables - West Hill and Stevens for 12 months of lease payments for the modular classrooms in the 2014 – 2015 budget year.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town’s Finance Director is authorized to spend up to a total \$75,000 from the 2013 - 2014 Adopted Budget in the Capital Improvement Budget – budget line 01-950-000-5720 for School Improvements on costs associated with both West Hill and Stevens modular classroom projects.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract between the Town of Rocky Hill and ModSpace be affected as of July 1, 2014.

Report and Recommendation

The Town went to bid for this item with a bid opening on April 29, 2014. One contractor submitted a bid. Friar Associates, the project architect, and O&G, the project construction manager, review the bid. The project architect and construction manager recommends that ModSpace be awarded the West Hill School modular classroom project bid in order to be in place for the start of school in September of 2014.

Bid Costs:

Installation of One Modular Classroom	\$303,181
Four Year Lease Cost	\$144,000
Cost to remove the modular classroom	<u>\$ 49,522</u>
Total	\$496,703

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. Deputy Mayor Bell said that the costs that were discussed in this Resolution would be over a four year period and the lease payments will not all be due in Fiscal Year 2014-2015. She said in her opinion that the time is long overdue for all-day kindergarten. She said that it comes down to them lagging in their DRG, their neighboring Towns and in the State. She doesn't think that Rocky Hill wants to be a Town where they are lagging in their educational endeavors so she thinks it is time to act and to stop lagging. She said that she is supporting this motion.

Mayor Vassel asked if any other Councilors wished to speak. None of them wished to.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

B. Award of Bid – Modular Classrooms – Stevens School

Deputy Mayor Bell moved the following resolution reading it aloud and in full. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

“Award of Bid – Stevens School Modular Classrooms Project”

BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Rocky Hill Town Council awards the bid for one (1) modular classroom at Stevens School to Modular Space Corporation (ModSpace), 85 Kenneth Dooley Drive, Middletown, Connecticut at a bid price of \$238,156. This bid price includes the installation of the modular classroom, 48 month leasing arrangement, and the cost to remove the modular classroom at the end of the lease period.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this modular classroom project award of bid is not effective unless the Rocky Hill Town Council appropriates funds in the Town's 2014 -2015 Adopted Budget in the Capital Improvement Budget – budget line 01-950-000-5720 for School Improvements for the installation of this Modular classroom in the 2014 – 2015 budget year. Also, the Town Council appropriates funds in the Town's 2014 -2015 Adopted Budget in the Capital Improvement Budget – budget line 01-950-000-5798 for Portables - West Hill and Stevens for 12 months of lease payments for the modular classroom in the 2014 – 2015 budget year

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Town's Finance Director is authorized to spend up to a total \$75,000 from the 2013 - 2014 Adopted Budget in the Capital Improvement Budget – budget line 01-950-000-5720 for School Improvements on costs associated with both West Hill and Stevens modular classroom projects.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract between the Town of Rocky Hill and ModSpace be affected as of July 1, 2014.

Report and Recommendation

The Town went to bid for this item with a bid opening on April 29, 2014. One contractor submitted a bid. Friar Associates, the project architect, and O&G, the project construction

manager, reviewed the bid. The project architect and construction manager recommends that ModSpace be awarded the Stevens School modular classroom project bid in order to be in place for the start of school in September of 2014.

Bid Costs:

Installation of One Modular Classroom =	\$172,683
Four Year Lease Cost	\$ 48,000
Cost to remove the modular classroom	<u>\$ 17,473</u>
Total	\$238,156

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor Kochanek said that he didn't think that any of the Councilors sitting there was against all-day kindergarten at all and they were all for it. His question though was if this was done in an economic way. He said he was going to bring up something that had been brought up before. There had been a plan to begin with to have all-day kindergarten done at a small cost or at no cost. The issue was votes as to whether people wanted to redistrict their children and people didn't want that. He told them that they turned down the plan that would have saved them \$600,000+. They are at this point now because Superintendent Dr. Zito said they are beyond the point of doing anything other than going with this. Councilor Kochanek feels that the next time they get put into something that they vote for what is good for the Town and not what is good for themselves. If all-day kindergarten is what they want then they can get that but he told them that they should at least do it in a reasonable and economical way. That had been the recommendation from Superintendent Dr. Zito. Councilor Kochanek said he would vote for this motion and he voted for the one before that because he wants all-day kindergarten. He mentioned again that everyone else on the Town Council did too but it was just a matter of how they got there. Mayor Vasel said thank you.

Mayor Vasel asked if anyone else from the Town Council wished to speak. No one else did.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

C. Award of Contract – O & G Construction Management – Portable Classrooms

Deputy Mayor Bell moved the following resolution reading it aloud and in full. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

“Award of Contract – Construction Management – West Hill, and Stevens Schools Modular Classrooms Projects”

BE IT RESOLVED that the Rocky Hill Town Council authorizes the Town Manager to enter into a contract for Construction Management Services for the Modular Classrooms Projects at West Hill and Stevens Schools to O&G Industries, Inc., 112 Wall Street, Torrington, CT at a total cost \$69,686.00. This cost will be charged in the Town's 2014 -2015 Adopted Budget in

the Capital Improvement Budget – budget line 01-950-000-5720 for School Improvements for the installation of these modular classrooms in the 2014 – 2015 budget year.

AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the contract between the Town of Rocky Hill and O&G be affected as of July 1, 2014.

Report and Recommendation

The Rocky Hill Board of Education is implementing all day kindergarten starting for the 2014 - 2015 school year. In order to accomplish this, three modular classrooms will be needed at West Hill and one modular classroom will be needed at Stevens. The modular classroom for Stevens and the three modular classrooms for West Hill would be installed by and leased from a modular classroom vendor. It is recommended that this contract be awarded to O&G at this time to provide construction management services in order to accomplish this modular classroom project by the start of school this fall.

Cost by School:

West Hill School = \$45,611

Stevens School = \$24,075

Total \$69,686

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked the Town Council if they had any discussion about this and they didn't.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

V. BUDGET WORKSHOP

A. Discussion & Possible Action – Transfer of Custodians to the BOE

Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to transfer the Custodian/Maintenance page 101 of the Budget Book in the amount of \$1,690,800 to the Board of Education. In addition, Employee Benefits (Group Insurance) in the amount of \$359,882; (Social Security) in the amount of \$100,557 and (Longevity) in the amount \$10,275. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was seconded and voted on, Deputy Mayor Bell said that the Town Council had a memo that had just been provided to them by Superintendent Dr. Zito. The memo states the \$1,690,800 reflects a decrease of \$100,000 from the planned transfer amount of \$1,790,000. The Board of Education is anticipating that it will be able to offset the \$100,000 reduction with the collection of fees for building usage for gymnasium rentals and with the implementation of scheduling efficiencies. This will fall under the control of the Board of Education.

At this point, the motion was seconded.

Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor MacDonald said he was absolutely all in favor of this and he told them that they knew that they have been trying to do this for years in Rocky Hill. He stood up there for four years in trying to get this and the Town incurred legal expenses trying to fight them to do this. He is glad that today is the day where they are moving on this in the right direction. He said that he wants to make sure that the longevity amount is being included in the amount that is being transferred over. Finance Director Mehr said that would have to be made in a second Resolution. Councilor MacDonald asked the Town Council if they were prepared to make that motion. He also said that there are two or three custodians who will be moving over to the Board of Education who have also received the bonus for not taking healthcare from the Town. This is currently on the Town side and he asked if that has also been transferred over to the Board of Education side. Finance Director Mehr said this isn't in the Resolution and he said that would have to be a separate one. Councilor MacDonald asked Finance Director Mehr if he had a Resolution for that to be made as well. Councilor MacDonald thought that he wants to make sure that all of the costs will follow the individuals when they transfer over the custodians and all of their functions. He doesn't want to have money on the Town side that should be over to the Board of Education side for these employees because that wouldn't make sense. He told Finance Director Mehr that he would leave this to him.

Deputy Mayor Bell asked Finance Director Mehr if he had those numbers. Finance Director Mehr said yes.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Finance Director Mehr gave the numbers at this time.

B. Revisit

Mayor Vasel said Minority Leader Moriarty was not present this evening so he asked Councilor Kochanek if he had any adjustments that he would like to make to the budget or he asked him if he would like to recall any departments. Councilor Kochanek said not at that time. Mayor Vasel asked Councilor MacDonald. Councilor MacDonald said not at that time.

Councilor Vargas said she had motions and she asked if it would be okay with everybody if they made those by department. Mayor Vasel asked if he could recall one department before they got to that and he recalled Chief Custer. Mayor Vasel referred to the radio console. He said that he had been working with the radio carriers to try to lease the radio console system because he thinks that there would be a lot of benefits to the Town by them doing so. He understood that the present radio console hasn't had the necessary updates in years. This was due to funding or for whatever reason. He said that he also understood that the present radio console could have perhaps been updated to digital if it had those updates over the years but it is too far gone now. He said to circumvent this that he has been exploring them leasing the system. He mentioned that he is going to try to include the necessary updates in the lease and he wants to have the maintenance of this in the lease also. He wants to try to have a five year lease that will be renewable for two more five year terms. He mentioned that he didn't want to get into the situation like the Town to the north of Rocky Hill did where they bought a radio system and they disliked it. He told Chief Custer if he likes this radio system after five years then they can talk

about having it renewed for another five years. Mayor Vasel said he understands that the life of the radio console is fifteen to eighteen years and they can push it to twenty years sometimes. He explained that by them leasing this, it will allow them to spread the cost out over the years for all of the years that it will be in service and it should be close to obsolete after fifteen years. This will save them from having to invest large sums of money over three years and this will also take some of the problems away if this doesn't work out well. He told Chief Custer that he wanted to run this by him because this is something that they will be talking about in the budget.

Mayor Vasel told Chief Custer that he also wanted to talk to him about the School Resource Officers (SROs) and he told him that he knows that he strongly believes in them. Mayor Vasel told Chief Custer that he agrees 100% with him about those. Mayor Vasel said that it is unfortunate with regards to the things going on in the society today and he has accepted the job of protecting the people in Rocky Hill, especially the children. There had been no school crossing guards in the 1960's in Rocky Hill. He had asked Town Manager Gilbert for the exact date that they got school crossing guards and she believed that it was in 1968. Mayor Vasel said that people would have said before that time that they were crazy if school crossing guards were proposed on the corners of intersections in Rocky Hill. He explained that most change comes in society due to tragedy unfortunately and he said that somebody must have gotten hurt somewhere at one time back in 1968 so that is why they had the school crossing guards. He said they have to move forward and protect the people in Rocky Hill because of things that happen like that did in the past, in society and in Rocky Hill.

Mayor Vasel gave another example. He said that Lisa Zerio had come forward and had said that pool monitors are going to be required from now on during the school day while school is in session. Mayor Vasel said this is something that had never happened in the past but this is one of those changes due to tragedies last year that they all remembered in school pools.

Mayor Vasel told Chief Custer that he has 1.5 Youth Officers in his budget. Mayor Vasel said he understands that the Youth Officers provide Detective duties and investigations, etc. He asked Chief Custer if he could give the "good ole college try" to make 3.5 Police Officers (this would be the 1.5 Youth Officers and 2 SROs) work amongst the Rocky Hill schools. Chief Custer asked Mayor Vasel if he meant having 3.5 Police Officers in the schools. Mayor Vasel said he wasn't sure if the 1.5 Youth Officers would be in the schools all of the time. He said that he doesn't want to know what times the Police Officers would be in the schools and he doesn't think that anyone should know that. He also doesn't think that anyone should know what schools the SROs will be in. This needs to be kept in the RHPD internally. He thinks the 3.5 Police Officers would be a good start and he asked Chief Custer if he thought this would be an acceptable start. Chief Custer said yes and he said that they can try this certainly. Mayor Vasel also asked Chief Custer if it would be possible for him to forgo his two Police cruisers this year and his four leased Detective vehicles in order to help the Town Council finance the two SROs. Chief Custer said he would sure like to have both of those things in a perfect world but he is passionate about the SROs. He said that he would defer the cars if it came down to choosing the SROs and deferring the cars for one year. Mayor Vasel said great and he thanked Chief Custer. Mayor Vasel told Chief Custer that he thought that was all he had for him.

Councilor MacDonald said he was inclined to add two additional SROs to the RHPD budget and he said that he would be making that motion later. He said that he talked to quite a few people who are in the education field in the last couple of months and there is a critical component as to what the SROs will do compared to what the 1.5 Youth Officers don't do. He asked Chief Custer if the schools will be safer if they have a SRO in each of their schools. Chief Custer said he would certainly feel more comfortable. Councilor MacDonald thanked Chief Custer and Mayor Vassel did too.

Mayor Vassel turned to Councilor Vargas at this point.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 10 (Mayor and Town Council) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut \$1,000 from the Town Council Budget (Technical Equipment 5749). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Councilor MacDonald asked them if they could hold on because he and Councilor Kochanek needed time to get to the pages to see where they were going. Councilor MacDonald asked what the rationale was for that cut. Mayor Vassel said part of that was for iPads for the Town Council. The Town Council has brand new iPads already. He said that there is \$2,000 for iPads in that line item and they would be taking \$1,000 out.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 14 (Personnel Administration) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the following from the Personnel Department:

\$4,200 (Fees 5326)

\$3,000 (Training 5334)

\$1,500 (Advertising 5540)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor Kochanek asked for that to be repeated and it was.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 20 (Property Tax Collection) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut \$600 from Property Tax Collection (Training 5334). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau was adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Councilor MacDonald confirmed that the amount was for \$600 and he was told yes.

Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor Kochanek confirmed that they want to take \$600 out of the \$1,100 that is being asked for. He was told that is correct. He asked if they know how much these courses cost or he asked if they are just taking \$600 out of there. Mayor Vasel said the understanding was that half of the people in the Tax Collector's office would be able to be sent to the courses. Councilor Kochanek asked if that had been said at the night of the Tax Collector's budget workshop. Mayor Vasel said that is what he recalled. Councilor Kochanek said that he didn't recall that and that is why he was questioning this. He asked if a course could even be attended if it costs \$1,100 and more than half of that amount is going to be taken out. Mayor Vasel read aloud what the description stated under training. Councilor Kochanek asked what the cost of the courses is and he asked them if it made sense for them to take money out if they don't know what the cost is.

Councilor Drapeau asked for the question to be moved. Mayor Vasel said they would move the question.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Kochanek asked Mayor Vasel before they got any further in this book if they could at least have an opportunity to finish asking their questions so that they can get some information they need to make their decisions instead of them moving questions on the spur of the moment. Councilor Kochanek said that he believes that when they are in the process of discussion that it isn't over until the questions that are being discussed have been answered. Mayor Vasel said he had answered the question to the best of his ability. Councilor Kochanek said that he and Councilor MacDonald had never heard that so that was why the question was being asked. Councilor Kochanek said in his mind that it doesn't make any sense to take a number out arbitrarily without knowing what a course costs. Mayor Vasel said okay. Councilor Kochanek asked what he meant by okay. Mayor Vasel said thank you and he said they were moving on to the next motion. Councilor Kochanek said okay.

Councilor Szeps said they had just voted on the moving of the question. He said there was a motion and a second for the original motion and they just needed to vote on that. Mayor Vasel asked for a vote on the original motion.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 24 (Legal) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the following from Legal:

\$70,000 (General Legal Fees 5311)

\$10,000 (Labor Counsel 5337)

\$5,000 (Tax Appeals 5803)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 30 (Town Clerk) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the Town Clerk (5326 Support Services) by \$6,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 38 (Information Technology) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Drapeau said they had already done the \$15,000. Councilor Vargas asked if this was \$15,380. Councilor Drapeau said that was right and he said they still had to make a motion for the other \$3,000. Councilor Vargas referred to 5746 (Computers). She said they have taken money out of other departments and they have added \$15,380 to IT's budget.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce line 5507 – Telephone from the Fire Department Budget by \$10,500, Facilities Department by \$98,600, Mini Bus \$1,200 and have it moved to the IT Budget line 5507 totaling \$110,300. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted. Councilors Kochanek and MacDonald voted Nay and Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was completely made and voted on, Finance Director Mehr confirmed that they were in the Information Technology budget and that they were going to create a line 5507 for telephones for \$10,500. Councilor Vargas said that was one of the ones and they were going to be creating a telephone line.

Councilor Drapeau told Finance Director Mehr that the money from the RHFD was in fire communications.

Councilor MacDonald asked if it could be explained as to what this is. He asked why they would be taking from fire communications and adding phones to IT. He said that he didn't get this and he said that there is only \$4,800 in fire communications. He then asked how they could take \$10,500 from the RHFD. He said this was unless he was looking at the wrong number. Councilor Drapeau said line 5507 has \$10,500 in it in fire communications. He explained what

that was for. The information technology component was going to be moved from the RHFD into the IT Department. Councilor MacDonald confirmed that they are not cutting this money for the RHFD but that they are putting it in the IT Department's budget. Councilor Drapeau said they aren't cutting the money. Councilor MacDonald said he had a concern. He referred to the First Responders (Police, Fire and Ambulance) and he said that they have special needs for pagers and telephones. He said that it really isn't up to a Clerk in the IT Department to determine what kind of communication tools they have to do their job. He agrees having the Tax Collector, Tax Assessor and Planning Department all brought together for this. He said for the RHFD though that the Chief has much more of a working knowledge as to what they need and when they need it so he sees no benefit of having that managed within the IT Department that is understaffed by one-third. He asked them if they could help him to understand how this is going to impact the RHFD and the RHPD. He told the Councilors that they should be able to tell everyone there what the impact would be for all of their cuts.

Councilor Drapeau said the object of this transfer is an effort that is continuing to move all of Town's pagers and cell phones, etc. under one controllable entity. They have an IT Committee now and he said that he felt confident, as well as he thought that Councilor Szeps did too, that there will be proper supervision to ensure that the other departments, especially those in need, will get what they need when they need it. Councilor Drapeau said in their opinion that a Clerk will no longer be overseeing these things but it will be the IT Committee.

Councilor MacDonald said in all due respect that he didn't sign up to be a Councilor so that he could handle the Chief's phone. He said that isn't the Town Council's role but their role is to set policy and direction to have the Staff implement it actually. He told Councilor Drapeau that he agreed with him that there needs to be better control over the pagers and the cell phones in the Town Hall. Councilor MacDonald truly believes though that the Police, Fire and Ambulance are so different and distinct that it will make absolutely no logical sense or monetary sense to bring those over to an IT organization. He said that he would be voting no. He thought it would be a disservice to the fire safety people to not let the Fire Chief speak about this.

Councilor Drapeau told Councilor MacDonald that he would disagree with him wholeheartedly because a properly run IT Department with the IT Committee which is properly supervised will ensure that every department will get what it needs when they need it. Councilor Drapeau said that every department would also have the "eyes and ears" of the full Town Council in order to make sure that funding is available for these different services. He said this is "Wild West" right now and this will be the first step into centralizing critical functions and into making the "Wild West" into a community. He considers these to be critical functions. He explained that they aren't cutting anything but they are just simply consolidating.

Councilor Kochanek said they may be consolidating but he said that they would be hampering organizations that need to react in an expedient manner when decisions need to be made as to whether to get this or that, etc. He said that it doesn't make any sense to him with regards to the IT Committee being educated as to what they (First Responders) are looking to get and why they need it, as well as justifying this when they already know that they need it. He mentioned that a lot of other things don't make sense to him either but he said that this really stands out.

Councilor Casasanta thanked the Councilors for their input into this. She said that she had another suggestion too. She referred to the Public Safety Committee that they have and the RHFD is present at that. She said there is also the IT Committee. Those two Committees are distinct but they bring the component together as well so that this can be centralized like she said Councilor Drapeau had mentioned. The RHFD is represented fully at the Public Safety Committee to vet their questions to them and that Committee then goes to the Town Council if there are any suggestions or actions that need to be taken. She said thank you.

Councilor MacDonald asked if the Chief wants to get a pager because a firefighter's pager broke, if they would have to go through the Public Safety Committee now then through the IT Committee and then to the Town Council to get this. He told them that it appears that they have talked about what a process is and he wants to understand this. He thinks that they owe it to the First Responders for them to know what the process is if there is a firefighter who needs a cell phone or pager to provide a vital function.

Councilor Casasanta said the IT Committee is the "ears to the need" and the Public Safety Committee is the "ears to the wants". There aren't two distinct Committees but this is simply an avenue where they can communicate through the Committees to the Town Council.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 40 (Economic Development) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

At this point, Finance Director Mehr said he had just gotten the telephones from the RHFD and he asked if that would be the only telephone transfer. Councilor Vargas said she had gone through the other ones and she started mentioning those again. Deputy Mayor Bell said that had been part of that motion. Councilor Kochanek asked if this includes the RHPD too. Councilor MacDonald said that the \$10,500 was just for the RHFD telephones. Councilor Kochanek asked if the same route would be taken for the RHPD. Councilor MacDonald said that must be a third motion. Councilor Kochanek asked if it would be and he was told no. He asked them if they aren't going to put the RHPD in "the same boat" and he then asked if they are going to put the RHPD in the same category as the RHPD. Councilor MacDonald thought a process should be followed. He referred to the motion for the \$10,500 that had been voted on and then he referred to how someone had mentioned \$98,600. Mayor Vassel said that was the telephone charge from the buildings. Councilor MacDonald asked what page that was on and Mayor Vassel said that was for the 5507 account. Finance Director Mehr said that would be on Page 99 (Town Building Operations). He said that \$98,600 would be transferred out of this facilities' account over to the IT budget. Councilor Drapeau said cell phones and landlines are in 5507 in Public Works. Councilor Vargas said the last part was for the Mini Bus. Councilor MacDonald asked if they didn't want to make a motion on that. Councilor Szeps said Councilor Vargas had made one motion that was inclusive. Councilor Vargas apologized and said that maybe that wasn't clear. Councilor Kochanek asked if the motion could please be repeated totally. Mayor Vassel asked Jessica Dumas (Clerk of the Council) if she had the motion and she said that she didn't. Councilor MacDonald asked if they didn't have a motion. Finance Director Mehr said this would be to transfer \$10,500 out of the RHFD's communications' line, to transfer \$98,600 out of

the Town's facilities budget for telephones and to transfer \$1,200 out of the Mini Bus budget. The total of those three for 5507 would go into the IT budget under a new line. Councilor MacDonald asked about the RHPD and he told Councilor Vargas that he thought she had mentioned them. Councilor Vargas said she hadn't said anything about the RHPD. Councilor MacDonald asked if they aren't doing the RHPD. Councilor Szeps said that wasn't part of that motion and Mayor Vasel said the same thing. Councilor MacDonald asked for the next motion please. Councilor Vargas said she was all done with the IT Department. Mayor Vasel told Councilor Vargas to move on to the next motion.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 40 (Economic Development) again of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce Economic Development (5541 - Printing) by \$2,890. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Councilor Kochanek said they had asked a question as to where the RHPD was (with regards to the phones) and he said now they have moved on to this motion. He asked if there was a reason that they weren't doing the RHPD or he asked if he should look forward to another Resolution. Councilor MacDonald told Mayor Vasel that he had talked about the "Wild West" and he had talked about the RHFD so he assumed that if everything is going to be moved over then the phones for the RHPD would also be moved over. Councilor MacDonald asked why the RHFD would just be picked on. He told the Councilors that if they are going through a process and if they are trying to consolidate for efficiencies then he assumed that this would be all inclusive. It didn't appear to be all inclusive right now because he said that they keep asking about the RHPD and he said the Councilors on the other side of the table didn't know what is going on with them. Mayor Vasel said he thought they knew what was going on and he said that they were moving on to a different department. They are trying to streamline this budget and he didn't think that they were taking an "ax" to it. They are trying to "prune it" so that they come back healthier next year. He said this proves that they are trying to move this Town in the right direction. Councilor MacDonald said that wasn't the question and he said the question was about them going through a process for phones. He said for everyone to be included. Mayor Vasel told Councilor MacDonald and Councilor Kochanek that he had asked each of them individually if they had any adjustments to the budget and he told them that neither of them had any. Councilor MacDonald and Councilor Kochanek said they didn't at that time. Mayor Vasel told Councilor MacDonald and Councilor Kochanek that he assumed they were happy with the budget as it is. Councilor MacDonald asked Mayor Vasel if he knows what it means when he assumes. Councilor Casasanta asked for a Point of Order. Mayor Vasel said there was a Point of Order. Councilor MacDonald told them if they are going to do this for them to do it right. He told them to add in what they want to do for consolidation and for them to move on. Mayor Vasel turned to Councilor Casasanta and asked her about her Point of Order. Councilor Casasanta said they were trying to keep this as respectful as they could. She told them that they are all passionate about the issues and she was asking them that they respect each other's positions. She asked them to please just move on if the question has been moved. She said thank you and Mayor Vasel did too.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Mayor Vasel said for them to move on to the RHPD. Councilor Vargas said they were going to do each department within the RHPD. She referred to Records and Communications on Page 44 of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget Book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the proposed position of a full time Records Clerk (5111 full time) in the Police Department by \$45,610 and add \$22,805 Records Clerk (5120 part time) creating a part time position. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was seconded and voted on, Councilor Vargas made the following motion:

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the Police Department (5742 Radio Equipment) by \$7,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was seconded and voted on, Finance Director Mehr asked if there would be three adjustments and if these would be for full time, part time and radio equipment. Councilor Vargas said right.

Mayor Vasel asked for a second at this time. Councilor Drapeau made the second.

Before the motions were voted on, Councilor MacDonald referred to the Records and Communications and said that they have a telephone charge of \$18,673. He asked if that is going to remain in the RHPD or if that would be coming over to the IT Department like this had been done for the RHFD, as well as other departments. Mayor Vasel asked Councilor MacDonald what account he was talking about. Councilor MacDonald said he was on Page 45 (Records and Communications) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book and he referred to where it stated "telephone" (5507). Councilor Szeps asked Councilor MacDonald if that was his motion. Councilor MacDonald said that was a question and not a motion. He said they have a motion and his discussion was if they are taking \$18,673 into account as part of the motion. Mayor Vasel said that wasn't part of the motion that was on the floor and he asked if there was any discussion for the motion that was on the floor. There was none.

At this point, the motion(s) was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Uniform Patrol on Page 48 of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget Book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the requested position of a Police Officer (beginning January 1, 2015) line 5111 in the amount of \$31,782, in addition reduce (5613 uniforms) by \$2,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was seconded and voted on, Mayor Vasel said they had to add two SROs. Finance Director Mehr said they are in there on a different page.

Mayor Vasel asked if there was a second at this point and Councilor Drapeau seconded the motion. Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion and there was none.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas said that was it for the RHPD. Councilor MacDonald said since they were still on the Police Uniform Patrol that he had a motion to make.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to add two additional School Resource Officers (SRO's) to the Police Department's Budget as recommended by SW24. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and failed. Yeas-2; (Kochanek and MacDonald) Nays-6; (Bell, Casasanta, Drapeau, Szeps, Vargas and Vasel). Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before the motion was seconded and voted on, Councilor MacDonald said this would bring this to four SROs like the security consultant has advised the Town to have. Mayor Vasel confirmed that there would be four SROs plus the 1.5 Youth Officers for a total of 5.5. Councilor MacDonald said he would be adding two SROs and he said the Youth Officers aren't SROs. He explained what his motion was again. He mentioned that it was very clear in SecureWatch 24's report that every school should have a SRO and their current budget doesn't. He believes that the safety of their children is Number One. Mayor Vasel said he agrees about the safety of their children.

Councilor MacDonald asked if there was a second to his motion and Councilor Kochanek seconded it at this point.

Before this motion was voted on, Councilor Szeps asked Councilor MacDonald if he was adding this to Page 49 (Uniform Patrol) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book. Councilor MacDonald said yes and this will be to 5111. He explained that the Police Chief had also provided everyone on the Town Council with an analysis that shows a significant reduction in overtime by them having four SROs in the buildings because now there will be two additional Police Officers in the summer who will be able to pick up overtime costs. He explained that the net net will be much less than \$127,000.

Mayor Vasel said he would base his decision on the fact that Chief Custer had said that with the 1.5 Youth Officers and the two SROs that he would give that a try. Mayor Vasel asked if there was any other discussion. Councilor MacDonald said it wasn't worth giving it a try. SecureWatch 24 was very clear in their report that they have a lot of issues in this Town as it relates to the security in the schools. He said that they are doing the best that they can to fund these. SecureWatch 24 said for them to have one SRO in every school. He said for himself that this isn't something that they try at or that they give it a go. He mentioned that when the leading school districts are talked to, they have a SRO in every school and this is the reason that he made his motion.

Mayor Vasel asked if there was any other discussion. Councilor Drapeau told Councilor MacDonald that was a relatively high level analysis and he thanked him for that. Councilor Drapeau said he would love to have four SROs and he fully supports them. He also really wants

them. He looked at the really “fat” budget though and he said that he thinks they can do with the two SROs plus the 1.5 Youth Officers, as well as have the RHPD reallocate some resources to help the 3.5 that they are proposing at this point. He said if Chief Custer comes back in July and says that he needs two more then he would say that they go to reserves. Councilor Drapeau said this is something that they definitely need to look at but they don’t even have a plan in place yet and they don’t even know what is going to be done yet by the two SROs or how this is going to be managed. He said that he wants all of them when they can afford them but he thinks they have a lot of Police Officers now who are on the Staff currently. His opinion is that they can do with the 3.5 and maybe they can “squeeze” Chief Custer for another Police Officer out of his Staff. Councilor Drapeau said he would say for them to find the money if Chief Custer needs more.

Deputy Mayor Bell asked if the motion for this could be reread. Mayor Vasel asked who had the motion. Finance Director Mehr believed that the motion was with regards to adding two SROs to the Police Patrol budget in 5111 (Full Time) for a total of \$127,130. He asked Councilor MacDonald if that was correct. Mayor Vasel said they already have two SROs and Councilor MacDonald was adding an additional two SROs plus the 1.5 Youth Officers. Councilor MacDonald told Mayor Vasel that he was wrong and he wasn’t adding 5.5. Councilor MacDonald said the motion was very clear. He is adding two SROs at a cost of \$127,030. Finance Director Mehr said again that the account number for this is 5111. Mayor Vasel said there was a motion and they had a second.

At this point, the motion was voted on. Mayor Vasel said the motion failed.

Councilor Vargas told Finance Director Mehr that there are associated benefits that will go with the Records Clerk and she asked him if that would be figured out later also. Finance Director Mehr said yes. Councilor Vargas said she didn’t know what the dollar amount for this is and she asked if that was something even that they could vote on. Finance Director Mehr said that he would give a number when they got to the Employee Benefits’ page. Councilor Vargas said okay and thank you.

Councilor Vargas referred to the RHFD. Mayor Vasel reminded everyone that he would be abstaining from any comments or votes because he is a member of the RHFD and he would merely be asking for a call (for votes on any motions).

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 54 (Supervision) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the following from the Fire Department – Supervision:

\$1,500 (5613 Uniforms and Cleaning)

\$1,000 (5818 Dues and Subscriptions)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted with Mayor Vasel abstaining. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Councilor MacDonald said if \$1,500 is being proposed to be cut then he was assuming that either the Staff uniforms or the Honor Guard uniforms are going to be cut. He asked what uniforms would be cut. Councilor Drapeau thought that the RHFD could decide this.

At this point the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 56 (Training) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the following from the Fire Department – Training:

\$10,000 (5334 Training)

\$25,000 (5433 Ground Maintenance)

\$2,000 (5627 Technical Supplies)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau with Councilors Kochanek and MacDonald voting Nay with Mayor Vassel abstaining. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before the motion was voted on, Councilor MacDonald asked if the motion could please be repeated. Councilor Vargas repeated it.

At this point, Mayor Vassel called for a vote on the motion. Councilor MacDonald said they were still discussing this and he asked Mayor Vassel to slow down a little bit because they were talking about the RHFD, which is important for the Town. Councilor MacDonald asked if the RHFD will have enough money in its budget if the training is being cut by \$10,000 to continue training the individuals they have, as well as the individuals they will be getting, in order for the Town to keep its ISO rating with this cut. Councilor Drapeau said the Councilors of the Majority Party have debated and deliberated hard and long on every cut that is being proposed. He said that this included the one in question. He said that they agreed that this proposed cut and painful one will not have a material effect on the level of service that the Rocky Hill taxpayers will expect to receive. Councilor MacDonald assumed that this has been confirmed by Chief Garrahy or he asked if this was the Councilors' determination. Councilor MacDonald said this is a very serious issue. He told them about them eliminating training from a fire department for which the ISO Code is a critical component as to why some businesses move into Town. He said that he wasn't saying if this wasn't going to get there or not but he told them that it appears that this decision had been made without reference to Chief Garrahy. Councilor MacDonald said that he apologized if he was wrong. He wants to really get an understanding for the taxpayers as to if this will impact the fire safety in Rocky Hill or he asked if this was just an arbitrary \$10,000 that had been cut.

Councilor Drapeau told Mayor Vassel that he thought the question had been answered. Mayor Vassel asked if there were any other questions. Councilor Kochanek said he had a comment. He mentioned if there are sixty members in the RHFD and the Town Council will be taking \$10,000 then they are saying that the sixty members are not all going to be afforded the ability to continue their training so that they can continue doing the job that they do for nothing. He said that

training in the amount of \$10,000 is very essential depending on what they are training on so that they can get this all done across the board in order for everyone to know what they are doing. He thinks the Councilors are heading in the wrong direction if they feel that continuing education isn't necessary in order for them (members of the RHFD) to be proficient in what they are doing. He referred to Councilor MacDonald's question as to whether this had been confirmed with the RHFD as to whether they can afford to continue the efficiency they have today that warrants a free fire department with a cut of \$10,000. Councilor Kochanek said if they are going to cut anything that they will cut grass first before they cut training. He said that is stupid and that they don't cut people's abilities to perform their job when it comes to life safety on their side, as well as on the side of the people who are being served. He said that it is "nuts". He told the Town Council that he hopes they will sleep good at night if they cut this \$10,000 because this isn't the smart thing to do. He asked them why they don't take the bullets away from the Police Officers because they cost money and he said that would be the same thing. He told the Town Council that the RHPD will be asking them for more money for bullets.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Communications in the RHFD's budget. She referred again to the cut of \$10,500 in this for the telephones (5507).

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce \$3,000 from the Fire Department –Communications (5742 Radio). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted with Mayor Vasel abstaining. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before the motion was voted on, Councilor MacDonald asked for them to help him understand the cut of \$3,000 for the radios. His understanding is that radios are a critical life safety tool to the RHFD. He told the Town Council that the RHFD's training has been cut and he told them that they are talking about cutting communications for them now. He asked if this will have any impact on the firefighters' safety and he asked if this has been confirmed. He said that he didn't see how anyone could envision cutting something like communications to a fire department unless the Fire Chief and his Staff have assured that they could live for a little while with what they have or that maybe they could use a radio that is a little bit older. He said though that he isn't hearing that those conversations have taken place unless he is mistaken.

Mayor Vasel asked if there were any other questions from the Town Council. Councilor MacDonald said the question he had just asked was a question to the maker of the motion. Councilor Drapeau said that the other Councilors from the Majority Party recognize that the Rocky Hill taxpayers have been forced to do more with less financial resources and they feel that the department's spending should reflect this economic change. He said the proposed cut therefore reflects their position to reduce government with the intention of saving taxpayer dollars while not affecting Town services materially. He mentioned that they have to do more with less.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 60 (Prevention) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the Fire Department (Dues and Subscriptions 5818) by \$1,250. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted with Councilors Kochanek and MacDonald voting Nay and Mayor Vassel abstaining. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 62 (Fire Fighting) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the following from the Fire Department –Fire Fighting:

\$10,000 (5121 Storm Standby)

\$4,000 (5613 Uniforms and Cleaning)

\$10,000 (5821 Staff Activity)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted with Councilors Kochanek and MacDonald voting Nay and Mayor Vassel abstaining. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion from the Town Council. Councilor Kochanek said he was going to discuss each of the cuts one at a time. He asked if they are eliminating 5613 and Councilor Vargas said yes. Councilor Kochanek asked if that account is being zeroed out. Councilor Vargas said yes. Councilor Kochanek asked if they knew what this account is for. Councilor Vargas said it is for uniforms and clothing. Councilor Kochanek asked Councilor Vargas if she knew what that meant and then he asked if any Councilors knew what it meant. Councilor Szeps asked Councilor Kochanek if he was going to tell them. Councilor Kochanek said he wanted to know if the Councilors knew and he said he would tell them if they didn't. Councilor Szeps told Councilor Kochanek to tell them. Councilor Kochanek said this is for the continuation of uniforms for the members who wear them proudly in order to represent Rocky Hill at funerals and at functions, etc. One of the things that is given to someone who becomes a firefighter is that they are given pride in what they do. The uniform is probably the closest thing to pride that they will ever get out of anybody because that is what they work for. He said that this had been done a long time. He mentioned that he had been given somebody's old uniform when he had joined the RHFD. He told the Town Council that they can't do this.

Councilor Kochanek asked about the third account that was mentioned now with regards to being cut. Councilor Vargas said this is 5821 (Staff Activity). Councilor Kochanek asked if they knew what that was. He told them that they are cutting things that they aren't quite sure of what they

involve. Councilor Drapeau said that was an assumption. Councilor Kochanek told Councilor Drapeau to tell him then because he was listening. Councilor Drapeau told Councilor Kochanek that he was not answering him. Councilor Kochanek asked why. Councilor Drapeau told Councilor Kochanek that he didn't ask him a question. Mayor Vassel told them that they weren't going to have a debate. Councilor Kochanek said he didn't want a debate and he said he wanted to clarify this. Mayor Vassel told Councilor Kochanek that he could enlighten the Town Council if he wanted to but he said there wasn't going to be a "back and forth" between Councilors. Councilor Kochanek said he didn't think this was a "back and forth" but that it was more of a "forth". He told them that the Staff Activity fund they want to cut back is the only reward that is given to the firefighters for the time and effort that they put in for the Town Council's benefit, as well as for the citizens of Rocky Hill. He said that he knew there were people there who were getting "all crazy" because he was talking about this and they find that this is some kind of an issue but he said that this is really what makes the RHFD work. He told the Town Council that they wouldn't totally understand this if they haven't been there. He told the Town Council that they can't take what little amount is given to the firefighters to do their job that keeps all of them (residents) safe at night so that they can sleep tight at night he said and go to work the next day. He said this is the firefighters' job. The firefighters do this and they then go to work the next day. He told the Town Council that it is "absolutely insane" for them to turnaround and take out \$10,000 here and \$5,000 there, etc. He told the Town Council that they aren't realizing what they are doing to the RHFD by taking these kinds of things away because this is all that the RHFD has. He told them if they think SROs are expensive for them to go and put a paid fire department out there. They would be dealing all of the time with union contracts, etc. if they had a paid department. He said that the firefighters don't ask for much. He told the Town Council that he thinks it is "ludicrous" that they want to cut the only thing that the RHFD has tangible for a reward. He said that this was all that he had to say.

At this point, the motion was started to be voted on. Councilor MacDonald told Mayor Vassel that he had his hand up. Councilor MacDonald asked if he could be helped to understand why the amount for the reduction with regards to the Storm Standby account was \$10,000 and he assumes that the RHFD will stop standing by in January then. Councilor Drapeau said he thought they had answered the question already.

Mayor Vassel asked Councilor MacDonald if he had any other questions. Councilor MacDonald referred to the Staff Activities and he asked the Town Council to reconsider that because the firefighters put their lives on the line every time that there is a fire call. Councilor MacDonald said the amount for this is "peanuts" compared to what the overall budget of the Town is. He mentioned about them taking away activities that might result in the elimination of Fire Police and that might eliminate the Division of Welfare Fund, etc. He thinks that it will make it more and more difficult for the RHFD to recruit new firefighters with the other cuts that the Town Council has made. He then referred to the size of the budget and what the firefighters do for this Town. He said that this was all that he had to say.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 64 (Apparatus Maint.) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the Fire Department (Vehicle Parts 5630) by \$8,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted with Councilors Kochanek and MacDonald voting Nay and Mayor Vasel abstaining. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor MacDonald said he saw that there was detail for the vehicle parts and he asked the Councilors if they thought there are specific items in that account that they think they don't need. He understands that each tire costs \$1,000 and he asked them if they are cutting tires for a fire truck. He said that this was a question to the maker of the motion.

Chief Garrahy started talking in the audience at this point but he didn't speak into a microphone. Councilor MacDonald said that he thought that Chief Garrahy should come up to the podium to speak because this is life safety for the Town and he thinks it is "atrocious" for the Town Council to not let Chief Garrahy give his opinion. Mayor Vasel asked Chief Garrahy which account he would be speaking on. Chief Garrahy said that he wanted to start with the apparatus. Mayor Vasel said that would be fine but he said they couldn't go backwards because they had already voted. Mayor Vasel told Chief Garrahy to speak. Chief Garrahy referred to the past year and he said the Division Mechanics have rebuilt a turntable, which had burned out, on a ladder truck, and they have rebuilt the steering box on a rescue truck because that was getting old, as well as because they were looking for refurbishment of it but that wasn't supported. The Division Mechanics are replacing the water tank mounts on Engine 2 now. This account is for the apparatus to be maintained. They have to keep the apparatus on the road. Last week, the RHFD was down to having two engines on the line because they had tires that had gone flat and emergency service had to be brought in. He told the Town Council that he needed them to support this account and for the money to be kept in it so that the RHFD can keep the fire trucks on the road. He explained that he doesn't know what he will be doing with training right now because it is "decimated". He said that his retention account is "shot" too. He told the Town Council again that the RHFD needs to keep the apparatus on the road and this won't do it if they take 40% of that budget out. Mayor Vasel said thank you.

Deputy Mayor Bell made a friendly amendment that the Town Council reconsiders this account. The friendly amendment was seconded by Councilor Drapeau. Councilor Vargas said that she would withdraw the motion. Chief Garrahy thanked Deputy Mayor Bell and he told her that if she would like to make a couple of more friendly amendments that the RHFD would appreciate money back in their training and retention accounts. Chief Garrahy said the training money would go for recruit training.

Mayor Vasel asked Councilor Vargas if she had anything else and she said that she thought they were done with the RHFD.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 68 (Building Inspection) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the Building Department 5120 – Part time by \$5,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 72 (Supervision) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the position of Recycling Coordinator in the amount of \$47,440 (Highway Town Garage 5111). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Councilor MacDonald referred to the 5111 and he said instead of them targeting an individual, he asked as a friendly amendment why they wouldn't make an overall cut to the entire Highway Department by an "X" amount. They could then let the Head of the Highway Department see where he could come up with those savings the best. Councilor MacDonald said from discussions with Glenn Parent (Highway Supt./Recycling Coordinator) that he has some very innovative ways where he thinks that he can save some money instead of the Town Council targeting an individual in this when they are trying to save money.

Councilor Vargas said the Recycling Coordinator had been added by the Town Council a couple of years ago and she hadn't voted to add that position at that time. She had asked for a cost benefit analysis of that position last year and also this year. She referred to the information that they had been provided as far as recycling and she said that number has not increased really but they are spending money by having a person doing that position. She said that she is standing by this cut.

Councilor Kochanek asked if the cable TV account for the Highway Department is going to be cut. Mayor Vasel said that is correct. Councilor Kochanek said the employees of the Highway Department won't have the ability to see what storms are doing when they are taking their breaks. Mayor Vasel said through the IT Department that they are hoping to fix the IT connections that the Highway Department is having at the Highway Garage so that they don't have to keep buying programs to fix their vehicles and the employees can go on the internet like everyone else does. He was hoping that this would have been done by now. Councilor Kochanek said that he is sure that the IT Department will take care of this.

Councilor Kochanek referred back to the Recycling Coordinator's position for \$47,000. He explained that the Governor, as well as everybody else, is talking about going green in order to save their ecosystem, etc. Rocky Hill instituted the blue barrels and he said that there is more in the blue barrels now than there is in the green ones. He said that they should continue to keep "their eye on the ball" and they should keep getting more recycling going in order for them to continue some sort of respect for that particular concept. He said that he knew he was talking but nothing was going to happen. He mentioned though that at least it is going to be said that there are some things that they don't personally like but they shouldn't be doing this to harm the Town. He said that recycling is a big thing. He thinks the suggestion of Councilor MacDonald with regards to letting the Highway Department find \$47,000 worth of savings some place is

similar to the question he had earlier about what courses they weren't going to have and the answer he had gotten about letting that be left up to the department (for Property Tax Collection). Councilor Kochanek agreed with Councilor MacDonald about how this position shouldn't be targeted and that they should let the Department Head find \$47,000 or more if that is what they are trying to save.

Mayor Vasel asked the Councilors if they had any further comments. Deputy Mayor Bell said the Town Council had voted for this position when it first came before it. She said that she had not voted for this at that time. There had been no job description. This had been done retroactively and there had been no proposed salary amount. She said that they have asked for supporting documentation for this position every single year and it hasn't been there. Councilor Kochanek asked if they still don't have a job description. Deputy Mayor Bell said that they don't have the cost benefit analysis that has been asked for repeatedly. Councilor Kochanek confirmed that they have a job description. Deputy Mayor Bell said they finally have one after the person had been hired. Councilor Kochanek said he understood that and he said that he knew the history behind this. He asked the Councilors if they didn't receive in their packets, a chart that showed that the recycling capacity is going up and he also believes that they got recognition for being one of the top ten in the State because of their recycling operation. Deputy Mayor Bell said they had received that information but there was no attribution to the position once again. She thinks that they need to be able to determine the cost benefit whenever they have any position. She said that they have mentioned this year after year about how they were going to need to see this cost benefit analysis if they are going to keep this position and they have had this discussion every single year. She said this is the reason that she was going to be voting to eliminate this position.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 74 (Town Garage) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce \$2,350 (Maintenance Equipment 5743) in the Highway Department – Garage. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on. Councilor Kochanek asked what the line item was again for the record. Councilor Vargas said what it was.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 76 (Road Maintenance) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the following in the Highway Department (Road Maintenance):

\$50,000 (Overtime 5130)
\$3,200 (Maintenance 5743)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before the motion was seconded and voted on, Councilor Vargas said there was also an addition of \$75,000 for Salt and Pretreatment (5627) but she said they had done that already. Mayor Vassel asked if there was a second. Councilor Drapeau seconded the motion.

Before the motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 80 (Sanitation) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce \$9,650 in the Highway Department (Sanitation 5405). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before the motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there were any comments or questions. Councilor MacDonald confirmed the account and the amount. He asked if it could be explained to him what this \$9,650 related to. Mayor Vassel thought this was for the propane tanks that Glenn Parent had mentioned they weren't being charged for anymore, as well as for the paint program that was set up. Councilor MacDonald said thank you. At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 90 (Grounds) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book. She said that a number of cuts were being proposed here.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce move the .6 full time position (5111) in the amount of \$35,843 to the part time line (5120). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there were any comments. There were no comments.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Finance Director Mehr confirmed with Councilor Vargas that she was moving \$35,843. Councilor Vargas said that \$35,843 was being moved from full time to part time.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the following the Parks and Recreation Department (Grounds):

\$5,400 (Tree Care 5415)
\$1,900 (Equipment 5431)
\$2,500 (Equipment Supplies 5615)
\$3,600 (Maintenance Supplies 5617)
\$4,500 (Vehicle Parts 5630)
\$2,000 (Grounds 5732)
\$5,000 (Park Equipment 5744)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present.
Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion or comments. There were no comments or discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 94 (Organized Activities) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the following the Parks and Recreation Department (Organized Activities):

\$10,000 (Brochure 5541)
\$3,000 (Technical Supplies 5627)

The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present.
Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor Kochanek asked if they are taking \$10,000 out of the printing budget for activities that the Town is sponsoring. Councilor Vargas said this is for the brochure. Councilor Kochanek confirmed that this is for the brochure that states what is going on in the Town and he asked if they are going to be telling residents about this bi-seasonally instead of seasonally. Mayor Vasel said this will be twice per year instead of four times. Councilor Kochanek said okay.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 96 (Aquatic) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce \$3,500 in the Parks and Recreation Department (Aquatics 5741). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 98 (Town Building Operations) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce \$67,500 in the Town Buildings Budget (Building Improvements - 5720).

Before this motion was seconded and voted on, Finance Director Mehr confirmed that this was for \$67,500 and Councilor Vargas said yes. Councilor Kochanek confirmed that this was for \$67,000. Councilor Vargas said yes and she said there was a budget of \$75,000 in this. Councilor MacDonald confirmed that this was just a scripter's error that was being corrected. Councilor Vargas said no. She mentioned that she had asked during the hearing why this was increased to \$75,000 and she was told that this was coming out of the CIP (Capital Improvements Program) but she told them that there was no cut made to the CIP. Councilor MacDonald asked if that was accurate. Mayor Vassel thought that Finance Director Mehr was looking at this right now. Councilor Vargas said the night of the hearing that she had asked the question as to whether that had been a typo. Town Manager Gilbert said that wasn't a typo. Councilor MacDonald asked Town Manager Gilbert if it was correct that this was double counted and that this was being removed from here. Town Manager Gilbert asked Councilor Vargas if she thought it was a typo that they put \$75,000 in here. Councilor Vargas told Town Manager Gilbert that she had asked this the other night. Councilor Vargas told Town Manager Gilbert that she said no and that she was taking this out of the CIP but there was no reduction in the CIP when she had looked there. Finance Director Mehr said CIP is assigned to specific repairs and this is more for unforeseen repairs that come up during the budget year. CIP has designated Capital Improvement projects that are for the Town buildings and the \$75,000 is for unforeseen repairs. Councilor Vargas said this went from \$9,000 to \$75,000 so there were obviously some foreseen repairs that they were assuming. Finance Director Mehr said they have been having a lot of unforeseen repairs in this current budget year. Mayor Vassel said \$7,500 was requested and Town Manager Gilbert bumped this amount up to \$75,000. Town Manager Gilbert said \$75,000 was put in here after they had a discussion over some of the things that have happened this year, as well as the fact that they have had to go to nonrecurring for them. This will go through the Government Operations Committee so that necessary repairs can be made as they occur. Mayor Vassel said the year-to-date actual is zero. Town Manager Gilbert asked Finance Director Mehr how much they have taken out of nonrecurring. Finance Director Mehr thought they had \$55,000 in this year's budget and this was probably related to unforeseen repairs in Capital Improvements. He didn't know what this was off of the top of his head but he said that he was sure that they have charged \$20,000 to \$30,000 on unforeseen repairs in Town buildings.

Councilor Drapeau asked Mayor Vassel if he could make a friendly amendment because he said it didn't sound like they knew what this money is going to be used for. Mayor Vassel said sure. Councilor Drapeau suggested that they drop this amount to \$40,000 so that they would "have some cushion". Councilor Vargas said she would accept that friendly amendment. Councilor Drapeau asked Councilor Vargas if that is fair and she said that is fair.

Mayor Vassel said there was a motion and a second.

Councilor Vargas confirmed with Councilor Drapeau that he was cutting \$40,000 out of this. Councilor Drapeau said this would be \$35,000 because he was cutting this to \$40,000.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce \$35,000 in the Town Buildings Budget (Building Improvements - 5720). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 102 (Town Custodian Service) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce \$23,895 in the Town Custodian Budget (Full time 5111). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

This was for the .4 position.

Before the motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Finance Director Mehr asked if any of that money would be getting transferred into part time. Town Manager Gilbert said they won't be able to have the work done otherwise. Mayor Vassel asked what work. Town Manager Gilbert asked if Lisa Zerio (Director of Parks and Recreation & Custodial Staff) could address this and Mayor Vassel said they already had voted on it. Councilor Szeps told them to move on. Lisa Zerio asked if she could make a comment. She explained that if this position gets cut then she will have nineteen hours per week at the Cora J. Belden Library that won't be covered from November 1st through March 31st. She asked the Town Council if they could add some part time money so that the library can be cleaned. Mayor Vassel asked who had cleaned the library before this position. Lisa Zerio said they had a part time position which became a full time position. She said that she will still need funds for those four months to have the library cleaned if that position goes. Mayor Vassel asked how many years this person has been working for the Town. Lisa Zerio said it was this past year. Mayor Vassel asked if this employee was working part time. Lisa Zerio said this employee was working part time and then this employee was going to the Parks and Recreation Department come April 1st. Mayor Vassel said this sounds like a new employee and not like someone who has been doing this for years part time. Lisa Zerio said that some part time employees leave but this position is covered for the four months. She mentioned again what she would need. The average pay for this would be \$10 per hour. Mayor Vassel asked how much this employee is being paid. Lisa Zerio said that is a full time position (.6 of this position is in the Parks and Recreation Department and .4 is in the Facilities Department). Councilor Vargas asked Finance Director Mehr if he knew how much this would be. Finance Director Mehr said this would be \$1,920.

Councilor Vargas asked if that would be all that they would need. Lisa Zerio said this would be nineteen hours per week at \$10 per hour for four months. Finance Director Mehr said this would be \$3,800.

Councilor Casasanta made a motion to add \$4,000 to the Town Custodian Budget (Part time - 5120). The motion was seconded by Councilor Vargas and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 104 (Cora J. Belden Library) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the Library by \$50,000 (split between two budget lines Part time 5120 and Books 5650). The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted with Councilors Kochanek and MacDonald voting Nay. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Town Manager Gilbert asked if there would be the latitude to have this amount taken from either of those accounts. Mayor Vasel said that was correct.

Mayor Vasel asked the Town Council if they had any discussion with regards to this. Councilor Kochanek asked if it was correct that the motion was they were taking \$50,000 out of the library's budget. Councilor Vargas said that was correct. She said that this would be either out of the books or part time accounts. This would be whatever Mary Hogan (Library Director) would prefer to do. Councilor Kochanek believes that \$40,000 was the only increase that the library had over last year's budget. He said with them taking \$50,000 out of it now that they will be lowering the budget \$10,000 from last year. He said this will also mean that they had an increase of \$41,000 in union contracts. He told them what they really would be doing there is they would be taking the negotiated contract wage increases of \$41,000 to \$42,000 and they will be adding \$8,000 on top of that so that the operating budget will go down an additional amount of approximately \$12,000. He said that the Cora J. Belden Library has been proven to be a very viable necessity in Rocky Hill and he said they are cutting them down to a level that was before last year's. He told the Councilors that he suggests they try to find a parking space there if they don't think the library is busy all of the time. He told them that they can't take away what the Rocky Hill citizens value to a lower level than it had been last year. The wage increase is the only reason that this had gone up \$40,000. He explained that the library isn't asking for anything more to continue the service than what they had last year but they are just looking to exist at the same level that they were at last year. He mentioned that the Rocky Hill people value the library extremely. He said that this was all he had to say.

Councilor MacDonald said that Councilor Kochanek is right. Councilor MacDonald told them when they back out what the union increase was and the \$50,000 that they are cutting them that the library is well below what they were at last year. The library's controllable expenses are

\$320,000 and he told them that they are cutting that by \$50,000. He mentioned that no other department in Town is being cut to this magnitude. He is really curious as to why there is such an inordinate cut to the library. He knew that Councilors who are up there and who were past Councilors have always tried to cut books. He perceives that they are trying to hide this now by saying to forget the books and that maybe the money can be cut out of part time. He told them that they are cutting the library at a huge percentage. The Town would fall apart if this was to be applied to the rest of it. He asked the maker of the motion why this is such a large cut which will bring the library below where they had been operating last year. Mayor Vassel referred to Page 105 (Cora J. Belden Library) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book and he told them that they would see that the year-to-date actuals for the part time salaries is \$103,000. The library had requested \$148,000. The year-to-date actuals for the library books is \$74,000 and they requested \$110,000. He told them if they went right down the line to look at the rest of the numbers that a lot of them are under budget. Councilor MacDonald told Mayor Vassel that the year-to-date is as of March. Councilor MacDonald is assuming that since Finance Director Mehr and Town Manager Gilbert put this budget together that they are all comfortable about the projected amounts being correct or he said that they would have a really big mess on their hands otherwise.

Councilor MacDonald said he is assuming that the projected amount is pretty close. He told Mayor Vassel when he mentioned that the \$103,000 is the year-to-date that that isn't right now but that was a while ago. Councilor MacDonald said they are saying that they are going to come in at \$148,000 and he said that isn't a savings of \$45,000 there. Mayor Vassel said the library had said that it was going to come in at \$148,000 last year but they came in at \$134,000. He said the numbers were there in all black and white. He mentioned that he had gone page by page and line by line to look at every number. Councilor MacDonald told Mayor Vassel that he was on the same page as he was and that it stated \$103,000 for the year-to-date actual. Councilor MacDonald asked Town Manager Gilbert if that wasn't as of today and she said that was as of March 31st. Mayor Vassel told Councilor MacDonald that he needed to go to the left. Mayor Vassel said the actual for Fiscal Year '12-'13 for 5120 was \$134,000 and the adopted amount was \$148,000. Councilor MacDonald said he was looking at the current numbers because what happened in the past is just the past. He is looking at what Town Manager Gilbert and what Finance Director Mehr are telling them with regards to what the projected is going to be. Councilor MacDonald said they are cutting the library below what it had been last year. He mentioned that he is all in favor of reducing expenses but he then referred to this being taken to a level that is less than it had been before. He asked the Town Council why they are picking on the library compared to all of the other departments that are coming out much higher.

Mayor Vassel asked the Town Council if they had any other comments. There were no other comments.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to when the Board of Education had been in front of the Town Council and she asked if they had accepted their cut of \$300,000 because she didn't think that they formally had. She was told no. She referred to Page 110 (Operating Budget) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book. The Chairman of the Board of Education had gotten up

during their budget workshop and he said that they were going to have a cut of \$300,000 to their budget.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the Board of Education's Budget by \$300,000 (a letter is attached from the Board of Education regarding the reduction). The motion was seconded by Councilor Szeps and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before the motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor MacDonald said this wasn't how he had remembered that. He said that Superintendent Dr. Zito was present this evening. Councilor MacDonald said he remembered this as being that the Board of Education has a surplus of \$300,000 for this year. He told the Councilors that many of them know how this can be applied because they had been on the Board of Education for years. Councilor MacDonald said there are a lot of different ways of using the \$300,000. He told them that they might want to reduce the Board of Education's budget but he said that he would like to hear from Superintendent Dr. Zito as to what he feels would be in the best interest as to how to have this reflected in the budget because the Board of Education had a meeting earlier today about this. Councilor MacDonald said this is going to impact taxes the exact same way because this is the same amount net net. He mentioned about them being transparent. Mayor Vasel asked Councilor MacDonald if he had read the letter. Councilor MacDonald said he had scanned a letter that had been given to him. Mayor Vasel said Item # 2 on the letter referred to the \$300,000.

Councilor Vargas said they could ask Superintendent Dr. Zito to come forward and Mayor Vasel said that would be fine. Superintendent Dr. Zito said thank you. He said that he had met earlier this evening with the Finance Committee of the Board of Education and the Facilities Committee of the Board of Education at a joint meeting that they had with regards to a number of items. He prepared a memo for Town Manager Gilbert. Superintendent Dr. Zito referred to the item with regards to the \$300,000 and he said that Frank Morse (Chairman of the BOE) had mentioned last week that the Board of Education is anticipating a fund balance of \$300,000 approximately. Superintendent Dr. Zito said he is anticipating that the Board of Education will direct them at their regular meeting on May 15, 2014 to go ahead and do some pre-spending on identified line items in the school budget for next year. They are very comfortable that a \$300,000 cut from the originally adopted amount by the Board of Education won't have any impact on their programs because line items will be purchased in advance of June 30, 2014.

Councilor MacDonald said he wanted this on the record so that it is exactly clear that the Board of Education, Superintendent Dr. Zito and the Town Council all agree because there have been quite a bit of issues with regards to Board of Education surpluses in the past. Councilor MacDonald said this clarifies everything and the Board of Education, as well as the Town Council is fine with it. He mentioned that this is why it is well worth it to have the experts come up to clarify things.

Deputy Mayor Bell asked that the memo that the Town Council received this evening that was prepared by Superintendent Dr. Zito to Town Manager Gilbert and that outlines this be part of the record. Deputy Mayor Bell commended the Board of Education for coming forward with

this. She said that \$300,000 sounds like an enormous amount of money to the general public but the reality is that the percentage of the Board of Education's budget is very tiny and it is very difficult to "hit it right on the head" with household budgets as anyone knows. She thanked the Board of Education for coming forward with this.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to Page 122 (Capital Improvement Program) of the 2014-2015 Proposed Annual Budget book. She said that this would be the last area and this is for the Capital Improvements.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the Plan of Conservation (\$50,000) in the Capital Improvements Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted with Councilors Kochanek and MacDonald voting Nay. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor MacDonald asked if they specifically were talking about the Plan of Conservation and Development. Mayor Vassel said that was right. Councilor MacDonald said this is something that the prior Town Councils haven't funded for years. Some of the issues that are happening with regards to the development in Rocky Hill are a direct reflection of them not having a Plan of Conservation and Development that is more current. He asked the Town Council how they could ever envision cutting this when it hasn't been funded for years and years. Councilor Vargas said there is \$50,000 for this in this current year's budget. Councilor MacDonald said that he was going to be voting no because this would cost significantly more than that. He believes that these are the items that they really have to fund for the future of this Town. He thinks this is another item where they are being foolish.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the Roof Replacement at Firehouse #3 (\$30,000) in the Capital Improvements Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted. Councilor Kochanek and MacDonald voted Nay. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor MacDonald confirmed that they would be cutting the roof replacement for the firehouse. He then told them that they were going fast and that he and Councilor Kochanek didn't have the preprinted material with regards to this.

Finance Director Mehr asked Councilor Vargas if this would be 5723. Councilor Vargas said yes and she said that they would be cutting \$30,000 out of the \$35,000.

Councilor MacDonald said he would be opposing this because this was again indicative of the past Town Councils not funding the Capital Improvements. He explained that they are seeing this with the roads, with the schools and with the buildings. They keep cutting and cutting until they need a new roof all of a sudden and the cost is double that. He said that furnaces and roofs

are core components of their buildings. He said that he wouldn't be supporting the cutting of those items.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the Town Buildings Improvements by \$131,000 in the Capital Improvements Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the McVicar Field by \$350,000 in the Capital Improvements Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Szeps and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Deputy Mayor Bell mentioned the STEAP (Small Town Economic Assistance Program) Grant. Mayor Vasel said that was right and he asked if there was any discussion. Councilor MacDonald told Mayor Vasel that he heard him talking to Deputy Mayor Bell about the STEAP Grant and he asked him if he could fill them in on this. Mayor Vasel said the Town had applied for a STEAP Grant for \$500,000 but the problem is that construction is going to be done there for the next period of years so they don't feel that it would be proper to have this field repaired with all of the construction that will be going on at this time because the field might get damaged again. Councilor MacDonald asked if the duration of the construction will be for three years. He then said that McVicar Field will not last three years. He referred to how Lisa Zerio had mentioned that they would get one or two years out of it. Councilor MacDonald asked the Town Council what they should do. He said again that this is one of the items where money hasn't been put aside year after year. He mentioned that some of these issues are finally being addressed and now they are cutting this whole thing out.

Councilor Casasanta asked Councilor Vargas if there was a question as to whether they were going to be getting the STEAP Grant. Councilor Vargas said that Ray Carpentino (Economic Developer) had said that they might be hearing something in May. Councilor Vargas also said that the Finance Committee is working on the Special Rec Account and they will be sweeping the money over before June 30, 2014. There will be a minimum of at least \$250,000. There is anticipation of using this for something as far as McVicar Field in addition to the STEAP Grant. She thinks that they will have more than enough. There will be money in nonrecurring to cover this.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to the Air Packs. She made a motion that they are proposing to put that off and cut the full \$162,000 this year.

Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor Kochanek asked how much is being cut. Deputy Mayor Bell said the concept behind this is that this is for a Standard that isn't in effect yet and hasn't passed yet. She told Councilor Kochanek that he had brought up the issue about some of the larger fire departments that would be getting all of the orders. Deputy Mayor Bell said this probably would be a fair amount of time before they could go ahead once the Standard is adopted sometime next year. Councilor Kochanek believed that the Standard had been written and he asked if it has been approved. Chief Garrahy said yes. Councilor Kochanek believes that it will be \$400,000+ for a total change out of the Air Packs. Chief Garrahy said that is correct. Councilor Kochanek said the theory behind this is that they have to start acquiring these. The \$162,000 they are talking about would be put towards these when they become available. These could be purchased in stages so that they could be put on the line as soon as possible. He said this isn't a matter of not having a Standard because that got adopted just recently. He explained more about the theory of the \$162,000 and how this will be a three year project. He mentioned about them being in the same ballpark that they were before if they took McVicar Field out for \$500,000 and then "tagged" these Air Packs on for \$500,000 because they would be looking at a large number. He referred to the \$162,000 and he said that this would be to get this going and for them to plan this out. The plan would be for them to acquire the Air Packs as they become available. He recommended that they didn't touch this because he said that speaking from experience, whenever it comes to something like this, they are told that they will do it but then they are told they will do it the next time when it comes time for them to do it.

Councilor Vargas thought when the RHFD had come before them that they had said that this (Standard) wasn't approved and she said this is why they were putting this off for one year. She asked if something has changed since the RHFD had come in front of them. She asked why they would be doing this right now if it hasn't been approved. She mentioned that they have a huge tax increase this year so they are trying to do the best that they can.

Chief Garrahy said when the RHFD had explained this, they had said that the Standard had made it through every Subcommittee that is out there. The companies are manufacturing these Air Packs and the technical bulletins are out. The formality will be the final vote and he believes that will be on June 1, 2014 in Boston. He said with the three year plan that this is typically what happens and he referred to three years ago when \$70,000 was being put away for a rescue truck refurbishment but that account has no money in it right now. He explained that there had been \$70,000 in the account and they tried to bring the amount up to \$140,000 last year but \$70,000 went to a survey while the other \$70,000 was cut. That rescue truck is almost thirty years old. He mentioned again that this typically is what happens when they start doing something over a three year plan. He said to begin with that he was opposed to a three year plan and he said that this is why. He said when this item had been brought to the Public Safety Committee that everything that could be brought on it was and there was total transparency. He said they were going to go with a two year plan from everything that he understood and then this got brought to a three year plan. He understands the three year plan and he said they can make that work. He told the Town Council that he was feeling frustrated because the RHFD already lost 6% of its budget so far. They are losing their Capital Improvements now and he doesn't have rescue truck refurbishment so he said that the RHFD is taking a serious hit.

Deputy Mayor Bell told Chief Garrahy to correct her if she was wrong but she said that she had in her notes that this wouldn't be coming for a vote until the August timeframe. Chief Garrahy said the final meeting is always the first week of June and he has attended those meetings before. Deputy Mayor Bell said she stood corrected on this then. Chief Garrahy said this will be a formality because the Standard has made it through all of the technical Committees. The Standard has already been published to the manufacturers that he believes have started manufacturing the new Air Packs and they have stopped manufacturing the old ones.

Councilor Vargas said she wasn't aware of this timeframe and this wasn't what she had understood. She said that she didn't know. Chief Garrahy thought the timeframe will stay the same. He said they were talking about three packages of which there would be one-third each year. Councilor Vargas said she knew that but she was under the understanding to put this off one year, etc. Chief Garrahy said that wasn't his understanding. He understood from the Public Safety Committee that one-third of this was to be funded this year and two-thirds next year. He said that he might be wrong but he recalled that this would be funded this year.

Deputy Mayor Bell asked Chief Garrahy if these could be leased since these are a large expenditure item and she gave an example of the Police console. Deputy Mayor Bell then asked what the lifespan is of these. Chief Garrahy said the lifespan will be to the next major technology leap. Fire Marshal Renstrom said they had explained that there is a lease purchase possibility for these but they can't do this because of their Town Charter. He said that they had explained very carefully that they are looking for \$486,000 and this could be split up into thirds. The full body of the NFPA will vote on June 1, 2014 on this and this already had passed through the Subcommittees. Deputy Mayor Bell said she remembered that and she apologized for remembering an August date. She said aside from this that they have had a different ruling on the Town Charter since then with regards to the whole lease thing. She knows that a lease purchase is different than a straight lease and she didn't know if the capability existed to have this done on a straight operational lease. Town Manager Gilbert said a straight operational lease would be if these were to be leased, then turned back in and then leased again. Deputy Mayor Bell said this would be like what they are doing with the Police console and she was told that was correct. Town Manager Gilbert asked if they could do that. Mayor Vasel said they could do a straight lease for a period up to fifteen years. He referred to their antiquated Town Charter which states that they can't go over \$150,000 to lease and then purchase an item. Fire Marshal Renstrom said this would be for a lease purchase and they were told that if this came in over \$100,000 that they couldn't do this and for them to forget about it. He said this is what they did and they are going this route. Mayor Vasel said he understood that they had a different ruling from the Town Attorney. Mayor Vasel said Town Manager Gilbert had asked the Town Attorney about this three times and then he changed his mind the fourth time. Town Manager Gilbert referred to them doing a straight lease without them trying to own the Air Packs. Finance Director Mehr said they would return the Air Packs at the end of the lease then. He explained that the lease purchase has the \$150,000 because they would be keeping them. They could do an operating lease if they are going to lease these for ten years and then give them back at the end of that time.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to withdraw her motion. Councilor MacDonald said he would second that. Mayor Vasel said if someone had seconded the original motion then they would

have to second this. He asked if anybody had seconded that. Councilor Drapeau said that he would withdraw his second.

Councilor Vargas told Chief Garrahy that he was good and he said thank you.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the Highway Department by \$40,496 in the Capital Improvements Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was any discussion. There was none.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas then referred to the conversation that Mayor Vassel had with Chief Custer earlier and she referred to the total amount for the two cruisers and for the leases. Mayor Vassel believes this was for four leases. Councilor Vargas asked Finance Director Mehr how much this would be. Councilor Drapeau said this would be \$115,553. Councilor Vargas said she was making a motion to cut all of this and this was based on the discussion earlier per Chief Custer.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the Police Vehicles by \$115,700 in the Capital Improvements Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was a discussion. There was no discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to cut the Mini Bus by \$10,000 in the Capital Improvements Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was a discussion. Councilor Kochanek said that this was another item where they would be looking at a full purchase or they are going to be asked to have this put off again at the end of a couple of more sessions. Councilor Vargas said there is \$61,000 right now in the nonrecurring account for a Mini Bus. Councilor Kochanek asked how much a Mini Bus costs. Councilor Vargas said they had just received a grant for \$40,000. Finance Director Mehr said it usually costs the Town approximately \$20,000 if they receive a grant. Councilor Vargas referred again to the \$61,000 so she thought they could forego this for one year. Finance Director Mehr said this generally is for the replacement of two.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Vargas referred to the Police console and she said that she understands that they could do this for a lease of \$100,000 based on Mayor Vassel's conversation earlier. Mayor Vassel said that would be to start with. They are working on the Microwave project now. He spoke with Town Manager Gilbert and Finance Director Mehr. They would probably start soliciting bids and contractors around January 2015 for this process to be started. He said that the \$100,000 should be enough to start this process.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce the Dispatch Console and Radio Upgrades by \$433,333.00 in the Capital Improvements Budget. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted with Councilor MacDonald voting Nay. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vassel asked if there was a discussion. Councilor MacDonald asked if there was any support for the \$100,000 being proposed and he asked if they had any backup for that number. He asked why this is \$100,000 instead of \$50,000, etc. Finance Director Mehr said this is for seed money however they want to place it. Mayor Vassel said they are hoping for \$100,000 per year for a lease for fifteen years and he explained some more. Councilor MacDonald asked how this amount was come up with and he asked if they spoke to a vendor or to someone else who has done this. He asked if this is a common number for leasing this type of equipment. He said that he was trying to come up with an understanding for this. Mayor Vassel said that he had spoken to several vendors and this would be just for the first six months to start this process. Councilor MacDonald thinks that this should be more than just a phone call they had with a vendor before they make any significant changes like this in the future. He explained that they need to validate and verify data before they change the budget that will impact other departments. Mayor Vassel said he had spoken to both Finance Director Mehr and Town Manager Gilbert. Councilor MacDonald asked if Finance Director Mehr and Town Manager Gilbert had verified and validated the \$100,000. Mayor Vassel said they all felt that this would start in January of 2015 probably because the Microwave Program is going on now. This would be six months into the budget cycle. Councilor MacDonald said okay.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Mayor Vassel asked Councilor Kochanek and Councilor MacDonald if they had any adjustments to the budget and if they had any cuts that they would like to make. Councilor MacDonald referred to what has been done in the past and he said that the Minority Party has been afforded the chance to "digest the onslaught" of items they had for which they had no prior knowledge of. They do have some items that they would like to make adjustments to.

Councilor MacDonald called for a recess. Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to recess.

Finance Director Mehr said they had to do one increase before they went to recess. This related to the portable classrooms. Councilor Drapeau said he didn't know anything about portable classrooms. Finance Director Mehr said they had to increase 5798. The lease payment should be \$48,000 instead of \$45,000 and he said this was according to the memo he had written. Councilor Vargas asked if it was right that this wasn't depicting the bottom line of that. Mayor Vassel said no.

Deputy Mayor Bell made a motion to add \$3,000 to the Portable Classrooms. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor MacDonald moved to recess at 8:17 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Councilor MacDonald said just to clarify something before they went into recess that he knew they went through and they moved everything over to the Board of Education but he didn't recall the number as it related to the three custodians who had received the bonus for their healthcare costs. Finance Director Mehr said this is in the employee health benefit transfer. Councilor MacDonald asked if those three custodians were rolled into that and he asked if there is a related reduction for this on the Town side. Finance Director Mehr said yes. Councilor MacDonald asked Finance Director Mehr if this will have to come through his adjustment sheet and he said yes. Councilor MacDonald asked if he could have a copy of the up-to-date adjustment sheet as of now based on the cuts that they had made so far because that would be very helpful. Finance Director Mehr said he could give a photocopy of this and Councilor MacDonald said that was fine.

Councilor Casasanta asked how long of a recess they would be looking for. Councilor MacDonald said as short as possible.

Mayor Vasel said it was 8:25 p.m. and he said they were in recess.

Councilor Vargas moved to come out of recess at 8:38 p.m. The motion was seconded by Councilor Szeps and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Mayor Vasel turned to Councilor Kochanek and Councilor MacDonald at this time. Councilor MacDonald said he and Councilor Kochanek would talk briefly about their motions and he told the Town Council that they could get the actual detailed numbers if they wanted. Councilor MacDonald referred to them cutting an additional \$15,000 from the Legal Account, \$20,000 from the IT Account and eliminating this year's costs (\$20,000) for the Electronic Permitting system. He then said that \$1,500 would be added back to the apparel for the RHFD, \$10,000 for the Staff Activities and \$2,000 to the Technical Equipment. He then said that \$8,000 of \$35,000 would be restored to the library. He said that this would result still in a cut of \$20,000 to the budget, which would be close to a \$2,000,000 cut to the services of Rocky Hill already. Deputy Mayor Bell confirmed what the amount was for the library. Councilor MacDonald said \$8,000. Councilor Vargas asked Councilor MacDonald to go through his numbers again and he did. Deputy Mayor Bell asked if the net difference would be \$20,000 still and Councilor MacDonald said that would be additional cuts.

Mayor Vasel asked if this could be done without the RHFD's amounts because he would have to abstain from voting on those.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion with regards to the cuts first.

Councilor MacDonald also mentioned that he understands the Town's permitting system because he has used it but he said that he thinks as they talk about an IT Department that will be "bigger, bolder, brighter" that they should be able to do that themselves. He then said that their legal fees are so "out of whack" compared to any other Town in their surrounding area so an additional \$15,000 cut to them will have virtually no impact to the taxpayers versus the cuts that have been made to the RHFD. He then referred to the IT and he believes they are at a stage in this where it is developing. They need to spend time on this with the IT Committee. He has a vision where there would be one IT function in Rocky Hill. There would be a merge between the Town side and the Board of Education one. He said that the IT function in the Board of Education is very well run. They have the experience, the support, the process and systems that the Town would be spending money on to duplicate. He thinks this would be more a function of the IT Committee though to see if "there is an appetite" to do those things. He said that he would be hard pressed not to voice this wherever they have services like this that they can combine for efficiencies. He said these were the cuts that he had discussed jointly with Councilor Kochanek.

Mayor Vasel said he agreed about the legal fees but he said that they are in litigation with some major things that are going on now. He told Councilor MacDonald that he agreed with him and that the lawyer might have to pick up the pace a little if they don't have this money in there.

Councilor Drapeau asked Councilor MacDonald if he could recommend that he make the motions separately because he wasn't in agreement with him entirely with regards to IT. Councilor MacDonald said sure. Mayor Vasel asked Councilor MacDonald if he wanted to withdraw his motion and he did.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to reduce the Legal Account (5311) \$15,000. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Finance Director Mehr asked if this would be Account 5311 and Councilor MacDonald said yes. Finance Director Mehr asked Councilor MacDonald if they could just have an account number. Councilor MacDonald referred to how they had only been in recess for ten minutes but he said that they would do that right now.

Councilor Drapeau said Account 5311 is General and Account 5337 is Labor Counsel. Councilor MacDonald said this would be Account 5311.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor Drapeau said he agreed full heartedly.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to reduce \$20,000 in Electronic Permitting (5348). The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor Drapeau told Councilor MacDonald if he changed the amount to \$10,000 with regards to the motion he was going to make for the IT Account now that he would support it. Councilor MacDonald said \$15,000. Councilor Drapeau said done.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to reduce \$15,000 to the IT Account (5746). The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Finance Director Mehr asked if this was for any line in particular. Councilor MacDonald said in order to be consistent with items that were cut in other departments that he would leave it up to that department. Finance Director Mehr asked about Account 5746 and Councilor Drapeau said that would be fine.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to add back \$10,000 to the Fire Department Staff Activities (5821).

Before this was seconded and voted on, Deputy Mayor Bell asked if they would be willing to give all of the RHFD's Account Codes at once. Councilor Kochanek and Councilor MacDonald said sure. Councilor Kochanek mentioned adding \$10,000 back to Staff Activities (5821). He mentioned Uniforms & Clothing (5613) and Councilor MacDonald mentioned adding \$1,500 back to that. Councilor MacDonald referred to Radios (5742) and adding \$3,000 back to that and adding back \$10,000 to Storm Standby (5121). He then asked Finance Director Mehr what the total is for all of this and he said that this would be \$24,500. Councilor MacDonald then mentioned about adding \$8,000 back to the Library Account. The total add backs would be \$32,500 for a net reduction to the budget of \$17,500.

Councilor Drapeau asked if the motions for the RHFD and for the library could be split separately. Councilor MacDonald said sure.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to add back \$10,000 to the Fire Department Staff Activities (5821). The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and failed. Yay; 4- (Casasanta, Kochanek, MacDonald and Szeps). Nay; 3- (Bell, Drapeau and Vargas). Abstain; 1- (Mayor Vasel). Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Councilor Drapeau made a friendly amendment to make this amount \$5,000. Councilor MacDonald didn't accept the friendly amendment. He said they were talking about \$10,000. He told them that they cut legal fees, an electronic permitting system and they cut IT for \$50,000. He asked them if they aren't going to let the firefighters have the ability to recruit and retain firefighters over \$5,000. He then said that this would have zero impact to the mill rate.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to add back \$5,000 to the Fire Department Staff Activities (5821). The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and adopted with Mayor Vasel abstaining. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to add \$1,500 to the Fire Department Honor Guard (5613). The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and failed. Yay; 4- (Casasanta, Kochanek, MacDonald and Szeps). Nay; 3- (Bell, Drapeau and Vargas). Abstain; 1-(Mayor Vasel). Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to add \$10,000 to the Fire Department Standby Account (5121). The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and failed. Yay; 4- (Casasanta, Kochanek, MacDonald and Szeps). Nay; 3- (Bell, Drapeau and Vargas). Abstain; 1-(Mayor Vasel). Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked the Town Council if they had any discussion or comments. The Town Council had none.

At this point, the motion was voted on. Councilor Casasanta called for a roll call vote please so that was taken.

Town Manager Gilbert said the motion failed because there were not five who voted in favor of it and there needs to be a minimum of five per their rules. Mayor Vasel asked Town Manager Gilbert if she was positive and she said this has always been a minimum of five. Mayor Vasel asked Town Manager Gilbert if she needed to take a look at this or if she was 100% sure. Town Manager Gilbert said she was going to look in the Town Charter because she didn't have their rules with her now.

Mayor Vasel asked if they wanted to move on to another motion while Town Manager Gilbert was looking this up. Councilor MacDonald said no because it thinks this would really drive what their next motion would be.

Town Manager Gilbert said she believes that this is in their rules because it isn't in the Town Charter. She explained some more and she said that this has always been five votes as long as she has sat there. Mayor Vasel asked Town Manager Gilbert if she had the rules handy and she asked Jessica Dumas (Clerk of the Council) to please get the rules at this time. Town Manager Gilbert explained why this has always been five votes and this is because this is one more than one half of the total body and not the members present. At this point, Jessica Dumas gave the

rules to Town Manager Gilbert. Town Manager Gilbert referred to Section 8, Item II. of the Town Council Rules and she said that no motion carries with less than five affirmative votes. She was thanked.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to add \$3,000 to the Fire Department Radio (5742) and \$10,000 to the Fire Department Staff Activities (5821). The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor MacDonald said that obviously they were trying to add back a portion to a \$50,000 cut isn't working so he was really trying to bring back the items that they understand to be safety issues. He said that radios are safety issues. He then said he didn't know what is more important as far as the ability for the RHFD to recruit and retain firefighters in Rocky Hill. He was hoping to get a lot more but he thinks that these two items will have the Town Council support.

Councilor Drapeau asked Councilor MacDonald if he could split this motion if he didn't mind and do the radios first. Councilor MacDonald said sure.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to add \$3,000 to the Fire Department Radio (5742). The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and adopted with Mayor Vasel abstaining. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. There was no discussion.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to add \$8,000 back to the Library Account. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion. Councilor Vargas asked if this would be wherever Mary Hogan wanted to add this back. Councilor Kochanek told Councilor Vargas that this would be to wherever she had wanted Mary Hogan to take this from. Councilor Vargas said that this would be to either part time or books. Mayor Vasel said or a combination of those. Councilor MacDonald said whatever the library wants.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Councilor MacDonald said they had gone through a review of the Parks and Recreation Special Account Fund and that review was very detailed. There was always a minimum of \$426,000 in this account for the past year. They have talked about sweeping this over in July in the past. He asked Town Manager Gilbert how they could use the \$350,000 today to reduce this budget to the taxpayers. Finance Director Mehr said a certain dollar amount would have to be designated that they would want to have transferred out of the Special Rec Account into the General Fund. That would be used as a revenue source in the budget but this transfer wouldn't occur until after July

1, 2014. Councilor MacDonald asked if this would reduce the amount though that is going into the budget for the mill rate determination. Finance Director Mehr said this would increase the revenues. This would be a fund to fund transfer. Councilor MacDonald said they had all talked about this and they were going to do this anyways. He told them why not do this now and they could hopefully look at restoring some of the other cuts of training, etc. maybe.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to move \$350,000 from the Special Rec Account over to the Revenue Account. The motion was seconded by Councilor Drapeau.

Before the motion was seconded and voted on, Finance Director Mehr asked Councilor MacDonald if he was saying that he wanted to transfer \$350,000 from the Special Rec Account to the General Fund Account in the Fiscal Year 2014-2015 Budget.

At this point the motion was seconded.

Councilor MacDonald said they have talked about this and they have agreed to do this. They went through an analysis that was very detailed. The Special Rec Account has built up significant funds over the years. This will still leave an excess of close to \$100,000 in that account plus funds that are coming in. He said for himself that if there is a way to help to reduce the cost to the taxpayers and they know that they have this account so they are going to do this then he said that he was bringing this up for discussion this evening.

Councilor Vargas said they had been discussing this in the Finance Committee and they aren't quite finished discussing it but she said also that this hasn't come to the full Town Council. She said that it would be brought to the Town Council. She referred to the assumption that the amount will be \$350,000. She knows that Finance Director Mehr and Mona McKim (Treasurer) were working on that because there are monies in there that they aren't sure can be shifted over. Councilor Vargas guessed that some of the Capital Improvement cuts were made with the thought process that that money would be moved to nonrecurring. This will be affecting the taxpayer because tax dollars won't be used to pay for this. The money is going to be offline and this will be paid through nonrecurring. She said this is the reason that some of the cuts were made to Capital Improvements. She is concerned about them doing this cut of \$350,000 right now seeing this hasn't been voted on with an exact dollar amount by the Town Council. Councilor MacDonald told Councilor Vargas that she is the Chairwoman of the Finance Committee and he would be willing to take a friendly amendment if she had a different number. Councilor MacDonald said again that they have extra money in this account that has been there for a long time and they have more than enough funds coming in to offset this cost. He asked why they should be cutting money for uniforms for the Honor Guard (RHFD) and training (RHFD) when they know that they have this. Councilor Vargas said that she guesses the point is that this hasn't been fully discussed in the Finance Committee as to whether this will be put in the General Fund and then it gets caught in there or if they take that dollar amount to move it offline into nonrecurring. There are a number of items in nonrecurring already and they would be paying for the electronic permitting system or McVicar Field, etc. at some point. This would pay for some of the Capital Improvements. She doesn't see how they can do this tonight until this has gone through the process and they vote that this is the way they want to handle the money.

Councilor Drapeau said that he would like to further expand on this. He told them that he thinks they all agree that there is a “good chunk” of money in there and he said they agree especially on the Finance Committee. There are also dozens of cash accounts and there is a lot of activity that they are just being made aware of. He said that he was speaking for himself now. He said that he couldn’t sit there and make an educated decision about what the right cash balance is in those accounts without further analysis and discussion by the Finance Committee. He isn’t sure what the number is yet but he agrees that there should be a cut. He thinks that they should make this a priority to have this done before June 30, 2014 and they should bring this to the Town Council.

Councilor Vargas told Finance Director Mehr that she thought this has to be done by June 30, 2014 and that once the amount is figured out, this money will be swept over. Councilor Vargas told Finance Director Mehr that he and Mona McKim are working on this. Finance Director Mehr said that this doesn’t have to be but they can determine this. They generally make transfers like this on June 30th. Councilor Vargas said an option is to have this moved to nonrecurring so that some of the Capital Improvements that were just cut out of the budget can be paid for. Finance Director Mehr said yes. They would be using this in next year’s budget in the General Fund if they do this now and they will be doing a transfer to the nonrecurring fund if they do this on June 30th. Councilor Vargas said they have over \$1,000,000 currently in nonrecurring for other projects. She referred to what Chief Garrahy had said about the money last year for their truck and how that had been used to pay for things for the Board of Education. She mentioned that this account has things in it that they have started to save for over the years. She said that she was suggesting this but she said that they hadn’t voted in the Finance Committee yet as to what they are going to do with the money.

Councilor MacDonald agreed that this is a large amount that really has an impact to Rocky Hill. He said that he would withdraw his motion but he told Councilor Vargas that he really wants to make sure that there is a focus of her Finance Committee to address this because this has been going on for many years. Councilor Vargas said this has been on the Finance Committee’s agenda every month and they are getting to that point.

Councilor Drapeau confirmed with Councilor MacDonald that he is on the Finance Committee and he said yes. Councilor Drapeau said he was just making sure that everyone knew that.

Mayor Vassel asked Councilor MacDonald if he was all set. Councilor MacDonald said he was with that motion and that he had withdrew it. Councilor Drapeau said he would withdraw his second.

Councilor MacDonald said he had two other items. He mentioned that when he had looked at the healthcare bonus, where they pay employees 50% of the healthcare premium if they opt out of it that this is atypical and this isn’t a feasible benefit financially so he knows that this is something that they needed to address. He noticed that two non-bargaining people actually receive this and he asked Town Manager Gilbert and Finance Director Mehr if this is required to remain in their budget or he asked if the \$20,000 could be removed because they are non-bargaining. Town Manager Gilbert said this is contained within the general Personnel Rules, which can be changed by the Town Manager. Every time that a major change is made in union contracts then the Personnel Rules are changed. She said that is the process. Councilor

MacDonald said as they look at union contracts for all benefits that he thinks this is something that taxpayers, who are talked to, are “astounded” that the Town would actually offer this benefit.

Councilor MacDonald referred to the Town Charter and he said that he understands that he can't make changes to the anticipated revenue because the Town Council is restricted to expenditures. He referred to after the detail review of all of the levies for the prior years that the analysis was \$600,000 from last year's actual and they are budgeting \$450,000 for this year. He also referred to the fact that they have approximately \$4,000,000 to \$5,000,000 of uncollected taxes. He thinks that the number for a revenue that is in the budget should be significantly higher. He strongly encouraged Town Manager Gilbert to look at this prior to the adoption of the budget and for her to work with the Tax Collector to see if this is truly something that can be added for additional revenue. Town Manager Gilbert said she would do this.

Councilor MacDonald referred to his very last item and he said that he wanted to make sure that he understood that they have moved the telephones over for every department except for the RHPD. He asked if he could be helped to understand why they wouldn't take the same accounts and move them over to IT. He said that he was still at a loss. He told Councilor Drapeau that if they are applying a rule to the RHFD and to the Assessor that he didn't understand what the rationale is for them not doing the RHPD. Councilor MacDonald told Councilor Drapeau that he thinks he is the Chairman of the IT Committee and he told him that he had made the motion to consolidate the cell phones. Councilor Drapeau said that was correct. Councilor MacDonald told Councilor Drapeau that he was trying to get an understanding as to why he didn't include the Police. Councilor Drapeau said as he understands it that the RHPD has control right now over all of the cell phones. He referred to the dialogue he had and he said that there wasn't sufficient staffing up until now on the Town side in order to handle this responsibility. He said until they staff the IT Department up that he didn't make a motion to move that. He said this will be “living there” until they come up with the staffing on the IT side to do this.

Councilor MacDonald asked how they have the staffing to handle the cell phones for the RHFD if they don't have the staffing to handle the cell phones for the RHPD. Councilor Drapeau said the RHFD will have cell phones as they are now. Councilor MacDonald said that he was at a loss and Councilor Drapeau told him that he saw that he was at a loss. Councilor MacDonald said this seems illogical. Councilor Drapeau told Councilor MacDonald that it seems illogical to him and Councilor Kochanek said it did to him too. Councilor Drapeau thinks that the plan ultimately is to move all of the cell phones into a central location but the responsibility for the cell phones “lives” at the RHPD right now. He told Councilor MacDonald that if he wanted to make a motion to have the cell phones moved then for him to make it but he didn't think this was necessary to do until they have the proper staffing on the IT side.

Councilor Kochanek asked how many cell phones will be going over to the IT Department. Councilor Drapeau said he had no idea. Councilor Kochanek asked if it could be possible that this would be more than what the IT Department could handle now. Councilor Drapeau said that he had no idea. Councilor Kochanek asked Councilor Drapeau if he knows how many cell phones the RHPD has. Councilor Drapeau said he didn't. Councilor Kochanek asked Councilor Drapeau how he knew there were too many of them then. Councilor Drapeau told Councilor

Kochanek that he didn't understand his question and he asked him about too many of what. Councilor Kochanek said cell phones. Councilor Drapeau told Councilor Kochanek to make a motion or not make one. Councilor Kochanek said he is just trying to figure out why a particular department was singled out and why another one wasn't. Councilor Drapeau said he gave an answer.

Councilor MacDonald made a motion to move the Police Department Phone Account (5707) to the IT Department. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and failed. Yay; 2- (Kochanek and MacDonald). Nay; 6- (Bell, Casasanta, Drapeau, Szeps, Vasel and Vargas). Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Before this motion was voted on, Mayor Vasel asked if there was any discussion from the Town Council. Councilor MacDonald said this motion would be on par with the rest of the departments. He said the prior motions this evening were basically made without any facts and he said there is no knowledge of how many cell phones there are. He questioned about there being enough cell phones though to move the RHFD's over. He said this didn't make sense and he said for them to either do this for all of the departments or for them not to do this at all now until they get an IT function up and running because that will be an easy sweep then from the management of this. They are talking the same amount of dollars and the geography for these doesn't matter. He explained that it doesn't seem fair that one department has been cut out without them knowing anything about the cell phones.

Councilor Szeps said he wasn't going to support the motion. He said from the IT perspective that they are trying to take this a bit at a time and they need to get more organized before they take a larger task on. He said that he has no problem leaving the cell phones for the RHPD where they are right now. He told them to adopt a process with the current task that they have in front of them and then they can look to have the RHPD cell phones moved over.

At this point, the motion was voted on.

Mayor Vasel asked Councilor MacDonald if there were any other adjustments. Councilor MacDonald said that was all that he had.

Councilor Vargas said there are benefits that are associated with the FTEs that they took out and she said that Finance Director Mehr was going to provide them with the savings from that too. Finance Director Mehr said this would be \$64,950. Mayor Vasel asked Councilor Vargas if she was all set and she asked if they had to vote on that or she asked if this will come out automatically. Finance Director Mehr said they can reduce Employee Benefits (5210) by \$64,950.

Councilor Vargas made a motion to reduce \$64,950 in the Group Insurance Account (5210). The motion was seconded by Councilor Szeps and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

Mayor Vasel said the Proposed Budget had an increase of 7%. Councilor Drapeau said this was 7.65%. Mayor Vasel said now that they still have over a 3% budget increase, which is still a

large number. The present Town Council was handed the lack of school funding and the “crumbling roads”. He said that Towns and cities all over are “belt tightening” and this is from the smallest ones to the largest ones. He mentioned that this is what is done in a difficult economy which is where they are at right now. He told everyone that they have no more “notches in their belt to tighten” when they get to a depression and he told them that “when they have no more belt” that they are in a panic. He told everyone that they are in a “belt tightening stage” but not in a panic and they will come out a healthier Town with a little luck in the near future. They will start funding and supporting Capital Improvements that they should have been doing for the last ten years.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

Councilor Vargas moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kochanek and adopted unanimously by those present. Councilor Moriarty was absent.

As there was no further discussion, the budget workshop was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica M. Dumas
Clerk of the Council